

MOST

Madison-area Out-of-School Time



Afterschool Works: Strong Results, Underfunded Need

In the Madison area, over **14,000 kids** and their parents relied on Out-of-School Time (OST) organizations to provide nearly **2 million hours** of support during the 2024–2025 school year. When kids have consistent access to quality OST opportunities, both they and our community reap the benefits. OST programs work—they prepare kids with the skills needed to thrive in an uncertain world, boost parents' earning potential, and, for the first time, we are able to [analyze OST enrollment](#) and participation alongside MMSD school and social outcomes across grade levels. The results are compelling:

Afterschool participation is associated with higher school attendance, higher GPAs, and better outcomes. The benefits are powerful even for students who have historically faced opportunity gaps.

Academic Data

High School: High School students engaged in after-school programs have higher school attendance and GPAs than High School students not engaged in after-school programs.

For example, Latino students engaged in programs attend school 5% more, and Black students engaged in programs have a GPA 10% higher than those who didn't participate.

Middle School: Middle School students engaged in after-school programs have higher school attendance and GPAs than Middle School students not engaged in after-school programs.

As a whole, middle school students engaged in after-school programs have a 9% higher GPA than those who are not.

Elementary: Elementary students who are engaged in after-school programs have higher attendance at school across ALL racial and demographic groups with a particular benefit for Black, Asian, and Latino students, students who qualify for FRL, and English Language Learners.

For example, Black students have school attendance rates over 6% higher than those who only seldomly participate in programming.



Youth Survey Data

- Overall, youth enrolled in OST programs reported positive program experiences
- Youth rated Enjoyment & Engagement and Teamwork among the most important benefits of programming
- Additionally, 95% of parents said that Program staff have positive, supportive relationships with their children

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But that's not all: Middle School OST programs cut the percentage in half of students who don't have an adult to rely on—a key protective factor supporting positive mental health outcomes.

Access

While both the scale of programs and the outcomes are impressive, access to programs remains a problem, particularly for students from low-income households.

In the 2024/2025 school year only 27% of elementary aged students from low-income households were enrolled in a program.

Access is a systematic city-wide problem. To see how your neighborhood compares, check out our brand new [Elementary Afterschool Dashboard](#).



Bright Spots: Public Investment Matters

While there is a long way to go towards equitable access, there are some bright spots to learn from. When you look at City of Madison funded programs you see a strong prioritization on students furthest from opportunity. Over 70% of students enrolled in City funded programs are from Low-income households.

But local public dollars are stretched thin. In 2023, the City of Madison allocated \$1.7M to School Age Child & Youth Programs despite receiving over \$3M of requests. The next City Request for Proposals will be coming in 2027.



Call To Action:

There is a lot to celebrate, and a lot yet to do. Here's where you come in.

Advocate:

- Call your [state legislator](#) and urge Wisconsin to join the 28 other states with dedicated state funding for afterschool programs and join the [Wisconsin Partnership for Kids](#) for help for help in advocating
- Connect with your Alder and other local leaders about increasing access in your neighborhood

Share the Data

- Use the [dashboard](#)
- Bring these [outcomes and data](#) to decision-makers in your community

Partner With Us

- Check the [dashboard](#) out to see pilot initiatives to increase access—like a PTO who is raising money for afterschool scholarships—and see what you can do
- Strengthen funding to ensure every Madison child has the opportunity to participate
- Tell us how you use this data and share any ideas you have directly, nbeck@cityofmadison.com or nbeck3@madison.k12.wi.us

Sources: MOST Information System; The Dane County Youth Assessment; The Survey of Academic & Youth Outcomes



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