

# A Sound Strategy for Building a Better Virginia

## State Investments in Afterschool and Summer Learning

Decades of research show that afterschool and summer programs make good economic sense and benefit everyone. As a result, Virginia recently joined states across the country to invest in these programs to address workforce challenges, ignite economic growth, improve outcomes for youth, and keep communities safe.



### ADDRESSING WORKFORCE CHALLENGES

When parents worry about what their kids are doing after school, it makes it hard for them to work — meaning U.S. businesses can lose up to \$300 billion a year! Afterschool and summer programs help parents focus on their jobs so businesses can thrive.

Among Virginia parents:

- **80%** agree that afterschool programs help working parents keep their jobs.
- **85%** agree that afterschool programs provide them peace of mind.



### EXPANDING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Afterschool and summer learning programs engage students in enriching academic activities, offering young people more time for deeper learning and hands-on projects.

Students who regularly participate in quality afterschool and summer programs:

- Raise **reading levels** and increase **math scores**.
- Improve their **school attendance**, **work habits**, and **grades**.
- Are more likely to **graduate**.



### ENSURING CAREER READINESS

Afterschool and summer programs help students gain real-world work experience and build the soft skills employers crave like teamwork, communication, and critical thinking.

Among Virginia parents:

- **82%** agree that programs provide kids opportunities to learn skills like communication and teamwork.
- **77%** agree that programs help kids gain interest and skills in STEM.



### KEEPING KIDS AND COMMUNITIES SAFE

Afterschool and summer programs keep kids and communities safe by helping them make smart choices and stay away from risky activities – both online and offline.

Among Virginia parents:

- **74%** say afterschool programs keep kids safe and out of trouble.
- **74%** agree afterschool programs help kids avoid risky behaviors.

## VIRGINIA INVESTMENTS IN AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING

Virginia **invested \$5 million** in state funds to support comprehensive, community-based afterschool programs in their 2024-2026 state budget.

**In the first year of this investment:**

**\$3 MILLION**

is expected to fund:

**13**

afterschool programs

in

**9**

school divisions

and

**17**

schools

led by

**9**

community-based organizations

serving

**438**

families

with over

**700**

K-12 students

## PUTTING AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS TO WORK IN VIRGINIA

In Virginia over 600,000 children are waiting for an afterschool program. Parents say cost, lack of programs, and transportation challenges are top barriers to participation.

**Every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:**

- Increasing kids' potential to earn more money in their future job
- Improving kids' grades in school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



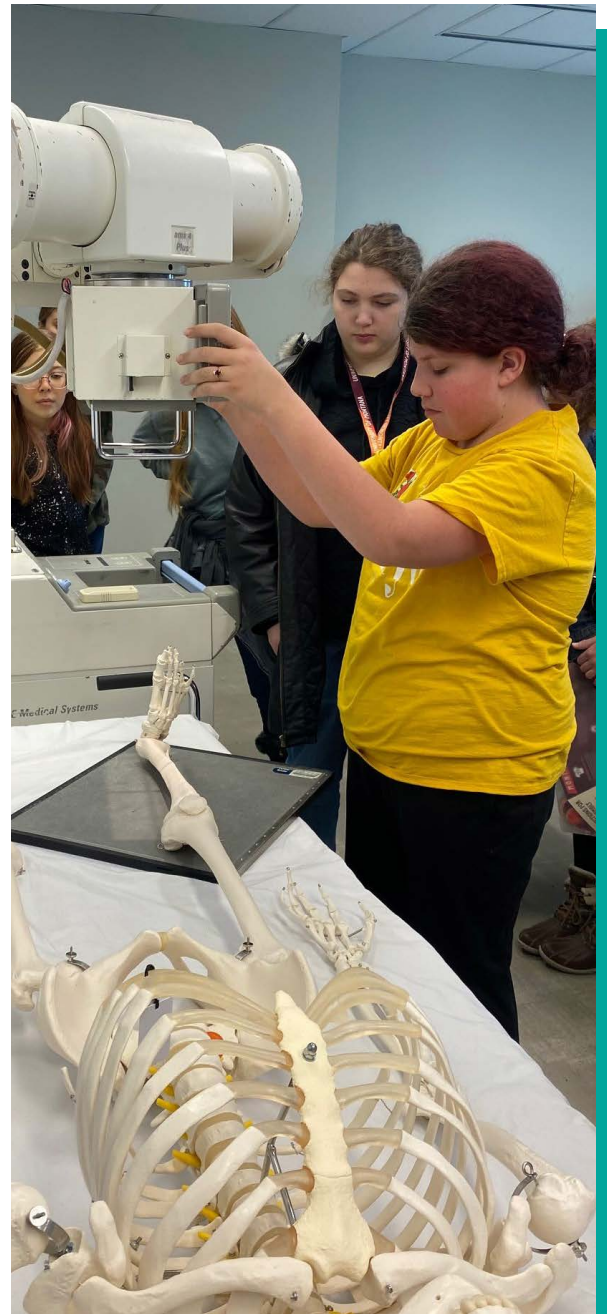
### Sources

<https://www.catalyst.org/research/after-school-worries-tough-on-parents-bad-for-business>

<https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/geo/Virginia/overview>

[https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/State-budget-roundup-for-afterschool-Part-1\\_05-22-2024.cfm](https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/afterschoolSnack/State-budget-roundup-for-afterschool-Part-1_05-22-2024.cfm)

Afterschool Alliance estimate based on findings from state-level return on investment studies conducted in states that include California, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, and Vermont.



Connect with the Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time to learn more about how afterschool and summer programs can help kids and support working families in Virginia.



Virginia Partnership  
for Out-of-School Time  
<https://v-post.org/>

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