ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN AN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM!

Participation in an afterschool program can profoundly assist your child succeed in school. Data from statewide and local evaluations show a consistent pattern of positive results on student achievement, attendance, behavior, and reductions in grade retention.

- At every grade from kindergarten through eighth grade, an afterschool program is associated with a decrease in the number of students retained in grade.
- Positive impacts on participating students' achievement as measured by (a) reading and math test scores, and (b) improved student grade point averages.
- Especially large improvements in achievement among the most high-risk students, including those initially in the lowest quartile on standardized test scores and English language learners.
- Improved student regular day attendance, with some evaluations showing particularly large improvements for students having the highest absences prior to participating in the program.
- The largest gains in attendance and achievement typically among students who participated at the highest level, referred to as "higher dosage" participants.
- More positive attitudes among participating students toward school, enhanced confidence about learning, and increased educational aspirations.
- Improved social skills and behavior, reduced disciplinary incidents at school, and reduced suspensions among participating students.
- Improved feelings of safety among participating children and youth.

Afterschool programs also have large contributed resources through volunteers—AmeriCorps workers, college students preparing to be teachers, senior citizens, and community members. The result is that most programs maintain higher adult-child ratios and are able to provide considerable one-to-one student help in tutoring and homework assistance. Schools remain open and provide staff, computer labs, and libraries.

Quality services are also achieved through close collaboration with prominent youth organizations and community-based organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCAs, the Boy Scouts, and the Girl Scouts. Colleges and universities provide significant support to afterschool programs, with many of their students engaged in service learning; this interaction greatly helps students prepare for college and career.

Many schools have a waiting list for their afterschool programs. So enroll your teen soon!