



Top 10 States for Afterschool in 2009

Each day in America, millions of kids go home to an empty house after school. In recent years, the growth of quality, affordable afterschool programs has begun to offer positive alternatives to the parents of these children. In 2009, the Afterschool Alliance contracted with RTi, a market research firm, to conduct a household survey of nearly 30,000 families to learn how many children are in afterschool programs, how many are unsupervised after school and how these numbers compare to five years ago. Building upon and updating a similar study conducted in 2004, *America After 3 PM*, sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund, provides the most comprehensive and accurate picture to date of what this nation's youth are doing each day after school.

Overall, *America After 3PM* finds that while more kids are in afterschool programs today than five years ago, the demand for programs has also increased. As would be expected, there is variability in the findings from state to state. Through an examination of a number of key indicators, a set of "Top 10 States for Afterschool" emerged. While they all have significant unmet need for afterschool programs, comparatively these "Top 10 States for Afterschool" in 2009 have some of the lowest rates of self-care combined with the highest rates of afterschool participation and satisfaction – all of which adds up to a winning combination for children and parents in these states. Yet, even in these top 10 states, too many children and families do not have access to quality afterschool opportunities.

Methodology:

To identify the "Top 10 States for Afterschool," a composite score was computed for each state, combining the following variables:

- Percent of children in afterschool programs – weighted by the average hours per week each child spends in afterschool programs
- Percent of children in self-care – inverse proportion
- Percent of parents who agree "afterschool programs are available in my area"
- Percent of program participants who qualify for free or reduced price lunch program (proxy for low-income households)
- Percent of parents of program participants who reported satisfaction with their afterschool program
- Percent of parents of program participants who reported satisfaction with program features identified as having the greatest impact on overall program satisfaction. Based on a regression analysis, the following features were determined to be the most influential:
 - Quality of care
 - Variety of activities
 - Program cost

The composite score from each state was then indexed against the national average. The "Top 10 States for Afterschool" identified in this document are those with the highest indices.

These top 10 states are identified on the following pages in rank order with an overview of the data from the state that helped them make the top 10, followed by a description of how the state





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has supported afterschool programs. In addition to state-level efforts, every state benefits from the availability of federal funding through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative and the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Furthermore, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation has supported 38 states, including most of the top 10 states, through its support for Statewide Afterschool Networks, which help improve both the quantity and quality of afterschool programs in their states. Below is a summary of the how each of the “Top 10 States for Afterschool” benefitted from these national supports.

State	FY09 21 st CCLC Funding	Estimated FY2008 CCDBG Funding for School Age Youth *	Statewide Afterschool Network
Hawaii	\$5,542,713	\$7,321,279	No
Arizona	\$20,486,060	\$34,679,480	Yes
New York	\$93,207,366	\$127,731,065	Yes
California	\$130,889,513	\$208,833,562	Yes
New Jersey	\$22,306,604	\$45,581,025	Yes
Virginia	\$18,207,497	\$40,929,266	No
New Mexico	\$8,988,528	\$11,478,260	Yes
Florida	\$53,100,009	\$87,200,443	Yes
Texas	\$101,925,671	\$141,512,868	No
North Carolina	\$28,947,665	\$63,047,748	Yes

* The CCDBG dollar amounts shown equal one-fourth of the state’s total CCDBG funding. Researchers estimate that one-fourth of all CCDBG funding is used for school age child care, which includes afterschool programs.

While these 10 states are leading the nation, it’s important to note that *America After 3 PM* finds significant unmet need for afterschool programs across all states. Even in the “Top 10 States for Afterschool”, the number of children who would be in programs, if programs were available, outnumbers the number of children currently able to participate.

In all 50 states, there are parents who want their kids in afterschool programs and aren’t able to find them, usually because programs aren’t available, they can’t afford the fees, or transportation issues make it impossible. These are barriers we can and should overcome. Quality afterschool programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. Every state, and the nation as a whole, has a long way to go to ensure that all kids have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs.

For more state level data and full national findings from *America After 3PM*, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM.cfm.



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Hawaii

Even before afterschool was a hot policy issue at the state level, Hawaii was moving toward universal afterschool for all of its children. This is evident in the state's strong participation numbers. It ranks first in afterschool participation rates with nearly three in ten children (28 percent) in Hawaii involved in an afterschool program. With strong participation rates and high average hours per week in afterschool programs (9.56), it is no wonder why Hawaii topped the list as the number one state for afterschool. However, Hawaii's participation rate has fallen since 2004 and the state budget situation makes it unlikely that new funding will be available to continue the progress.

	Hawaii		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	28	1	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	9.56	6	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	33	39	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	10	48	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	59	19	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	52	20	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	74	30	79
Variety of activities	72	31	74
Cost	72	13	63

Behind the Numbers:

One of the primary reasons for the success of afterschool in Hawaii is the After School Plus (A+) Program. Established in 1990 by the Hawaii Department of Education, the A+ program provides afterschool care (including homework assistance, enrichment activities and supervised recreational activities) until 5:30 p.m. each school day during the regular school year. More than 190 elementary schools in the state participate in the program. The A+ program is available statewide to all elementary children whose parents work, attend school or are in job-training programs. While there is a participation fee, the Department of Human Services has a "memorandum of agreement" with the Department of Education to use Child Care and Development Fund dollars to subsidize the cost of care for eligible children. Currently, the program is supported with \$6 million in state general funds and the current agreement provides for a payment of \$80/month for each eligible child. In addition, Hawaii has a strong military presence and the military has committed to afterschool programs and also has centralized systems for locating afterschool programs, which helps increase participation rates as well as satisfaction with the availability of programs.



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Arizona

Parents in Arizona are benefitting most from the amount of hours per week their children are spending in afterschool programs, with children in the state averaging more than 11 hours per week in afterschool programs. However, that does not tell the entire story of why Arizona made the top 10 list. The state also ranks in the top five in lowest self-care percentage (22 percent) as well as satisfaction with program quality (89 percent), activity variety (88 percent) and affordability (79 percent).

	Arizona		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	16	14	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	11.02	1	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	22	2	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	26	36	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	57	24	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	35	43	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	89	3	79
Variety of activities	88	2	74
Cost	79	3	63

Behind the Numbers:

Arizona has seen a fair share of public support for afterschool, particularly in its major cities. Phoenix has committed considerable funds to supporting afterschool programs. Local officials in Arizona’s capital devoted more than \$60 million in city, state and federal funds to afterschool programs, providing 30,000 to 50,000 children with quality care in the afternoon hours. Similarly, the government of Tucson, Arizona’s second largest city, has also invested heavily in afterschool programs, particularly those that take place in public facilities, such as schools. At the state level, Arizona legislators have also contributed, providing \$9 million to support afterschool programs.



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New York

New York ranks second overall in participation (21 percent) and among the top 15 states in nearly all of the criteria used for devising the top 10 list, including average hours per week (8.66), lowest self-care percentage (25 percent), percent of high need children served (44 percent) and overall satisfaction with afterschool programs (55 percent). This well-rounded state stands out as a model for other states to follow in ensuring higher participation, lowering the number of children in self-care, and creating high satisfaction with afterschool programs. Yet, even in a state as advanced as New York, too many children and families are unable to access quality, affordable afterschool programs.

	New York		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	21	2	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	8.66	14	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	25	8	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	44	14	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	60	16	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	55	15	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	78	23	79
Variety of activities	76	19	74
Cost	51	44	63

Behind the Numbers:

New York's state afterschool investment totaled \$82 million in FY10, which included \$30.6 million for Advantage After-School, \$23.6 million for Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention and \$27.8 million for the Extended Day/ Violence Prevention Program. Much of the Advantage After-School investment comes from the federal assistance program known as TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). Across funding streams, New York has a strong focus on building and funding collaborations between schools and community-based partners, which likely pays off in satisfaction and quality.



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California

Even amongst the turmoil of severe budget cuts in California over the past few years, the state still stands as one of the premiere states for afterschool programs in the nation. California ranks in the top ten in afterschool participation (19 percent), average hours per week spent in afterschool programs (9.29) and lowest self-care percentage (24 percent). It is also one of only two states to rank in the top 25 in every category used to devise the top 10 list (the other is New Jersey). California's large investment in afterschool is paying off with larger than average percentages of its families enjoying quality programs that keep kids safe and inspire them to learn.

	California		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	19	5	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	9.29	8	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	24	5	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	38	22	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	59	19	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	53	18	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	83	13	79
Variety of activities	74	23	74
Cost	66	23	63

Behind the Numbers:

California's After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program is the result of the 2002 voter approved initiative, Proposition 49. The ASES Program funds local afterschool education and enrichment programs. These programs, which provide tutoring and additional learning opportunities for students in kindergarten through ninth grade, are created through partnerships between California's schools and local community resources. Funding for the program is designed to provide afterschool programs to all elementary, middle and junior high schools throughout California. The current funding level for the ASES Program is \$550 million.



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New Jersey

In recent years, New Jersey has been moving toward building a strong afterschool network and working toward greater access to afterschool programs for its children in need. It shows, as New Jersey ranks in the top five in both satisfaction with afterschool programs availability (68 percent) and hours per week children spend in afterschool programs (10.48). These are the marks of a state that provides immense benefits to both its children and its parents. While children are receiving nearly 11 hours of quality afternoon care from afterschool program providers, many of New Jersey's working parents can rest assured that their children are safe from the end of the school day to the time that they get out of work.

	New Jersey		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	14	24	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	10.48	2	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	28	18	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	42	16	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	68	5	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	55	15	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	85	9	79
Variety of activities	82	8	74
Cost	67	22	63

Behind the Numbers:

New Jersey has produced several major campaigns to support afterschool programs. In 1988, the Office of Early Care and Education of the New Jersey Department of Human Services developed state-funded Family Friendly Centers, which provide \$2.5 million in grants to afterschool programs providing enrichment activities to their participants. Additionally, in 2004, New Jersey After 3 was founded to increase afterschool support systems for families. Currently, New Jersey After 3 has approximately \$14 million in state funds used to support grant-making to community-based organizations working with schools. The goal of New Jersey After 3 is to serve 20,000 children with high quality afterschool programs.



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Virginia

Unlike many of the states that made this top 10 list, Virginia does not have standout numbers in afterschool participation or hours per week in afterschool. Instead, Virginia makes this list because of its efforts to serve those in need, reduce the number of children in self-care and provide quality, accessible afterschool programs. Virginia ranks first in serving its constituents with the greatest need. More than 60 percent of children participating in an afterschool program in Virginia qualify for a reduced price lunch each day, an indication that they come from low-income households. In keeping with this theme, Virginia also ranks among the top 10 in satisfaction with the cost (73 percent) and availability (67 percent) of its afterschool programs as well as lowest self-care percentage (24 percent).

	Virginia		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	16	14	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	7.94	20	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	24	5	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	61	1	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	67	6	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	60	8	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	80	19	79
Variety of activities	72	29	74
Cost	73	9	63

Behind the Numbers:

School boards in many of Virginia’s larger districts made a concerted effort in the 1980s to make before and after school care available to more families. Since then, districts across Virginia have continued to support afterschool at the local level. Responding to residents’ needs due to long commutes, the Northern Virginia suburbs near Washington, D.C. such as Fairfax County, have offered fee-based afterschool programs for decades and have augmented them with supports for low-income families through school district investments and grants. Newport News is one great example of Virginia’s afterschool development at the local level. The city funds a project within its Parks and Recreation Department, which works closely with Newport News schools, to create a strong system of afterschool programs.



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New Mexico

Ranking second overall in self care (22 percent) and in the top 10 in both afterschool participation (17 percent) and average hours per week in afterschool (9.39) lands New Mexico on the list of the “Top 10 States for Afterschool”. Parents in New Mexico also report strong satisfaction with the variety of activities available in the state’s afterschool programs (83 percent). In this way, New Mexico stands out as a state where parents are satisfied with the quality of care and the array of activities offered by afterschool programs that engage their children.

	New Mexico		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	17	10	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	9.39	7	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	22	2	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	31	30	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	56	27	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	50	24	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	82	15	79
Variety of activities	83	6	74
Cost	68	19	63

Behind the Numbers:

In recent years, New Mexico began to invest a significant amount of state funds in afterschool programming. Appropriations for afterschool peaked in 2008 at \$3.3 million, but during this past legislative session, with a bad budget forecast, this number was cut to \$1 million. In addition to this funding, The Next Generation Fund has created some additional fiscal support for New Mexico’s afterschool programming. The fund was created with a \$2 million appropriation to leverage private, philanthropic funding for youth development. New Mexico has also attracted outside funders, such as the Kellogg Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies, because of the state’s high population of low-income youth. Additionally, Albuquerque, like other large school districts in the state, offers afterschool programs in most of its elementary schools, serving nearly 13,000 children in New Mexico’s largest city.



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Florida

Florida makes the top 10 list because of its strong numbers in afterschool participation and below average self-care rates. In Florida, one in five children (20 percent) participate in an afterschool program. That exceeds the national average of 15 percent. With a wide array of urban, suburban and rural populations, Florida's impressive participation numbers ensure that above average percentages of children from all different backgrounds are receiving the care and enrichment they need in the after school hours.

	Florida		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	20	3	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	8.89	11	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	25	8	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	41	19	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	58	22	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	42	37	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	73	35	79
Variety of activities	71	31	74
Cost	61	33	63

Behind the Numbers:

Linked with schools and community partners, Florida has a tradition of effective fee-based afterschool programs. However, Florida also maintains a unique resource in garnering greater afterschool funds: the Children's Services Commissions. These county based, publicly funded groups receive property tax funds devoted to meeting the needs of children. This property tax levy brings in millions of dollars for youth development and child care in the larger communities such as Jacksonville, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach County, Pinellas County, Hillsborough County and Marin County. The Children's Services Commissions across Florida support afterschool programs, resulting in afterschool opportunities at either no-cost or low-cost for families.



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Texas

Texas' afterschool programs rank in the top 10 in satisfaction in both quality of care (85 percent) and variety of activities (84 percent). More impressive though is the percentage of high-need children served in Texas. More than half the state's afterschool participants (53 percent) qualify for reduced priced lunches. This places Texas third among all states. This combination of providing parents with quality care, providing children with a variety of activities and serving a high need population makes Texas one of the "Top 10 States for Afterschool" in the country.

	Texas		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	15	19	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	8.51	15	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	26	12	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	53	3	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	50	38	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	56	14	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	85	9	79
Variety of activities	84	4	74
Cost	62	29	63

Behind the Numbers:

In Texas, the Texas Workforce Development Board is the lead agency for child care funds. Texas has 14 local Workforce Development Boards that locally match contracts for afterschool child care with a total of 24 independent school districts across the state, including Austin, Dallas and El Paso. Fee-based school-age care in Texas is widely available. It is also customary for schools in Texas to have an 'eighth period' that contain school activities that are not curriculum based, much like the activities many traditional afterschool programs provide. Texas is also home to JCPenney and with more than \$80 million contributed to afterschool programs over the past 10 years, JCPenney stands out among the nation's corporations for helping to support afterschool opportunities for kids and families.



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North Carolina

The main message from the *America After 3PM* survey coming out of North Carolina is that North Carolina parents are happy with their after school care, if they have access to it. Parents of afterschool participants from North Carolina are relatively satisfied with the availability of afterschool programs; two-thirds of parents (66 percent) report satisfaction. What's more, six in ten parents (64 percent) also report that they are extremely satisfied overall with the afterschool program their child attends. Pair this high level of satisfaction with the fact that North Carolina ranked in the top five in hours per week spent in afterschool (9.66) and one can easily see how North Carolina made the top 10 list.

	North Carolina		Total
	%	Rank	%
Afterschool Program Participation Rate	12	31	15
Average Hours in Afterschool Programs per week/per child	9.66	5	8.14
Self-Care Participation Rate	31	30	26
Percent of Afterschool Program Participants who Qualify for Free/Reduced Price Lunch	43	15	41
Agreement that Afterschool Programs are Available – % Completely/Somewhat Agree	66	8	57
Satisfaction with Afterschool Program % Extremely Satisfied	64	4	51
Program Satisfaction – % Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied			
Quality care	79	22	79
Variety of activities	79	14	74
Cost	76	6	63

Behind the Numbers:

Until recently, North Carolina had \$6.3 million in funding for afterschool from the Save Our Students (SOS) Program. During fiscal year 2007-2008, programs receiving funds from SOS served more than 14,000 youth in more than 200 sites across the state. Funding for Save Our Students was given to each county in North Carolina with the stipulation that county officials use the funds for youth programming with an eye toward reducing juvenile crime and helping students succeed. Additionally, two years ago the North Carolina state legislature approved a pilot program for afterschool supports that provided three schools with \$5.3M multi-year grants for implementing afterschool programs with special attention to the effectiveness and replication potential of each.