

# Partnering with Afterschool to Accelerate Students' Learning and Recovery



## The Opportunity

The American Rescue Plan provides Pennsylvania school districts nearly **\$4.5 billion** to remedy student learning loss and provide additional support to help young people thrive, both in and out of the classroom. Nationwide and across our state, schools are using those funds to team up with afterschool and summer program providers.

The Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network and local programs in your district are ready to partner and serve.

## Impact of Afterschool

Afterschool and summer enrichment programs reinforce what students learn in school and provide extra support to students who are struggling or have special needs. Programs provide more time for deeper learning, creative spaces for hands-on projects, and opportunities for students of all ages to explore careers.

Decades of research proves students who regularly participate in quality afterschool:



Gain self-control, confidence, and social skills



Improve school attendance, work habits, and grades



Make gains in reading and math



Have higher graduation rates



Explore career paths and gain workforce skills



Build healthy relationship with their peers and adults

## How can we save you time and money?

Pennsylvania has a strong network of expanded learning providers. These include before school, afterschool, summer enrichment, and other out-of-school time learning programs like the Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, 4-H, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, and community-based organizations that collaborate with libraries, museums, colleges, faith-based centers, and local recreation and parks sites.

**We have the relationships and expertise to help schools build robust community partnerships that accelerate students' academic and social-emotional learning. We offer:**



- **Flexible, shovel-ready programs**
- **Staff who can help kids build social-emotional skills**
- **Deep reach in underserved communities**
- **Strong connections with kids and families**
- **Expertise leveraging community partners and volunteers**
- **Professional development and training opportunities for educators**

## Invest in Afterschool

This school year many students will need extra support to reconnect, rebuild relationships, and re-engage in learning. Afterschool and summer programs are safe places for youth to learn and gain life skills, including leadership, critical thinking, and teamwork. They provide care for young people both during and beyond the school day, allowing parents to work or take time to seek employment. Programs offer:



Hands-on, project-based learning



Service learning and community projects



STEM, arts, and music



Youth-led learning and social activities



Planning and preparing for college



Physical activity and healthy food



Career exploration, internships, and mentoring



In Pennsylvania, every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves \$6.69 by decreasing:

High school dropout rate

Teen pregnancy

Substance use

Crime

Source: Joint State Government Commission

### Let's Do This!

Afterschool is an underutilized resource that can help schools in every community. These programs operate at the nexus of families, schools, and communities and are uniquely positioned to help schools accelerate students' learning and recovery.

#### ✓ Reach out to your local afterschool programs to:

- Provide space for their programming during the school year and/or over the summer
- Offer to include advertisements for their programs in your emails and newsletters to schools

#### ✓ Engage your state afterschool network to:

- Provide data on programs across the state
- Identify programs serving under-resourced communities
- Provide trainings and quality supports for programs that receive funds

### RESOURCES

[Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network](#) Lean on our state's leading afterschool intermediary for resources on program design, staff development, and afterschool and summer programming academic outcomes.

[Afterschool: Evidence & Research](#) Guidance from the American Institutes for Research that explains the evidence base for afterschool and strategies for using American Rescue Plan funding to leverage partnerships with expanded learning providers.

[HelpKidsRecover.org](#) Find resources and information about the American Rescue Plan, including funding amounts for states and school districts, opportunities, deadlines and examples of partnerships.

### Program Spotlight

**SHINE** (Schools and Homes in Education) Afterschool Program in Carbon and Schuylkill counties is a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center that actively partners with schools, families, and businesses to accelerate students' learning and growth. SHINE teachers align afterschool activities with school district curricula. They collaborate with classroom teachers and guidance counselors to monitor students' attendance and academic progress and ensure students who are struggling receive the extra support they need. SHINE's comprehensive 36-week program engages kids in fun, enriching hands-on activities that build literacy, leadership, and social skills. The program focuses on STEM learning and helps students explore in-demand careers related to engineering, health sciences, and green energy. Seven-year data trends show that 79% of all SHINE students improved their academic performance, according to their classroom teachers. In addition, a yearly average of 98% of SHINE students were promoted to the next grade level, and 70% of SHINE students achieved at least a "B" or 80% grade in reading and math.



The SHINE program was originally developed and implemented by Lehigh Carbon Community College in Carbon and Schuylkill counties. The model has been replicated in Luzerne, Wayne, and Pike counties.

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