DENVER THRIVES
How afterschool makes a difference in the lives of Denver’s youth
The Denver Afterschool Alliance works to unite providers and professionals in a single network, providing resources and supports to increase access to high quality programming for all of Denver’s youth.

**ANNUAL REACH:**

- **400** OST organizations
- **20,000** young people

**PROGRAM QUALITY MATTERS**

Based on input from both national and local experts and partners, DAA has developed a quality framework that serves to guide programs in assessing their strengths and identifying barriers to success.

Because quality is the key driver of effective and impactful programs, DAA’s strategy of support involves management of Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI), in which program staff collect data on quality indicators, create goals and action plans, then work toward those goals.

This data-driven method has helped Denver’s afterschool and summer field create a common language and approach to program quality, and has defined its approach to supporting quality improvement.
THE DATA

For programs to improve, staff must measure quality and track how it has changed. To do this, DAA provides technical assistance and access to a program quality assessment tool along with a youth survey.

More than 500 quality assessments have been completed

More than 13,000 youth surveys have been collected

YOUTH IMPACTS

Two-thirds of youth say that their afterschool program helps them do better in school

3 out of 4 youth say that their program helps them make friends and connect with others

Youth who regularly attend afterschool (30+ days/year) also attend day school more regularly than their non-attending peers and are 50 percent less likely to be chronically absent

They also make greater gains in English Language Arts and Math than their non-attending peers


HOW DAA SUPPORTS PROFESSIONALS

DAA funds the Denver Quality Afterschool Connection to ensure a breadth of professional learning offerings are free and accessible to afterschool professionals at all levels. Participants work on how to deepen quality, increase impact, improve services, and promote the importance of quality afterschool and summer programming.

67 learning sessions

1217 participants (24% increase)

93% said concepts & ideas discussed could improve their program’s quality

Quality is on the rise

Program Quality Assessments, Fall 2014 through Spring 2019
SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND ACADEMIC LEARNING (SEAL)

Selected by The Wallace Foundation as one of six communities to participate in the Partnerships for Social Emotional Learning Initiative, DAA and DPS are building the capacity of day school and afterschool to strategically partner for the benefit of youth. Through professional learning, coaching and intentional instruction, six school communities are preparing staff members of all roles to cultivate SEAL-rich, high-quality learning environments. As a result, youth can thrive and are prepared to be successful in school, out of school and in life.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

In 2017, the Denver Office of Marijuana Policy provided $1.5 million to the Office of Children’s Affairs to support early prevention efforts through afterschool and summer programs. In partnership with the YESS Institute, DAA developed a 10-hour curriculum to engage youth in making healthy decisions around marijuana in spaces that foster positive youth development.

- 80 percent of youth learned accurate information about the impacts of marijuana
- 90 percent said it helped them think about whom to trust when it comes to marijuana

MEMBERSHIP WITH DAA

Any organization, big or small, can benefit by engaging with the Denver Afterschool Alliance. Three levels of membership offer different tools and resources that serve partners in a way that make sense for them.

- **TRAILBLAZE**: Providers are deeply engaged with DAA and CQI, receiving the greatest benefits and opportunities to showcase leadership.
- **VENTURE**: Providers have integrated CQI into their organization and are accessing valuable tools and supports to drive quality.
- **EXPLORE**: Organizations are just beginning their journey with CQI.

Learn more AT [DENVERGOV.ORG/AFTERSCHOOLALLIANCE](http://DENVERGOV.ORG/AFTERSCHOOLALLIANCE) OR EMAIL [DENVERAFTERSCHOOLALLIANCE@DENVERGOV.ORG](mailto:DENVERAFTERSCHOOLALLIANCE@DENVERGOV.ORG)