

Afterschool: Through Their Eyes

"I want to be an actress when I grow up," says Kari, a student who discovered her talent in an afterschool acting class. "We learned about plays and improv. We learned how to deliver monologues, and how to speak and present with expression."

Kari, DPS Student



Math Club. Band. Tutoring. Soccer.

These are a few of the countless academic and enrichment offerings found in DPS afterschool programs - which serve more than 17,000 students each year.

Students enrolled in afterschool programs have better school attendance, lower suspension rates and higher academic growth across reading, writing and math compared to their peers who don't attend afterschool programs.

While thousands of DPS students and their families have access to afterschool programs, the need is not nearly met. Most programs are full with waiting lists.

"Afterschool programs gave me a place to study, play sports and enjoy a healthy snack while my family was at work. I took a cooking class that taught me how to make meals for myself and for my family. A photography class taught by professional photographers helped me capture a photo I still love to this day, and taught me an art form that I will forever carry.

Afterschool programs helped me to develop my skills as an athlete and opened up opportunities I never imagined. As a recent graduate of North High School and a University of Colorado Denver student who is on track to get my PhD, I now realize that most of all, afterschool programs helped me to develop character, passion and determination."

Daniel, DPS Graduate



DENVER AFTERSCHOOL ALLIANCE

Engaging our youth together

Every child in Denver deserves access to quality afterschool programs.



Additional funding is needed to ensure that all students have additional learning and enrichment time afterschool.

Contact the Denver Afterschool Alliance:
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With your help, we can make it happen.

Enrichment. Achievement. Equity. Afterschool.

Afterschool Impact

Incidences of juvenile crime peak between 3 and 6 p.m. on school days. Research shows that unsupervised youth are more likely to engage in risky behaviors.

National studies show parents without regular afterschool care for their children miss 8 more days of work per year than their peers whose children are in regular afterschool programs.

In Denver Public Schools, 4 in every 10 high school students will not graduate on time.

Nearly half of Colorado families who say they need afterschool programs for their child are currently not being served by them.

Keeping kids safe and extending their hours of learning and enrichment

Supporting Denver's economy and helping working families succeed

Regularly attending afterschool programs leads to:

- better school attendance
- fewer behavioral incidents
- greater academic success

Ensuring all of Denver's youth are served by dramatically increasing access to afterschool programs

How We'll Do It

We will achieve our vision by working arm in arm with every stakeholder citywide to establish a comprehensive, sustainable afterschool solution by:

Serving more youth and ensuring equity in access

- Inventorying current availability and gaps
- Connecting parents to programs
- Working towards filling gaps in services

Ensuring program quality

- Creating shared ownership for quality afterschool program outcomes
- Helping providers use data to improve how they serve youth
- Linking afterschool programming to K-12 and higher education (college and career readiness) to collectively support youth as they grow into productive adults

Supporting programs with proven impact

- Broadening impact to include academic and social emotional/character development metrics
- Highlighting proven programs as models for others to learn from and replicate
- Encouraging wise investments in programs and models where participants are benefiting

Advocating for afterschool

- Serving as a unified voice for awareness
- Advocating for policies and funding to positively affect Denver's afterschool landscape



Why We Need Your Help

No one entity can do this alone. The Denver Afterschool Alliance allows Denver to identify what is working best in afterschool and dramatically accelerate our progress in supporting Denver's youth.

The Denver Afterschool Alliance is a cross-sector builder, a system creator and a sustainer so that critical work around data, quality, partnerships and advocacy continues across Denver.

How You Can Help

- Fund the Denver Afterschool Alliance
- Serve on our board of directors
- Connect the Denver Afterschool Alliance to local and national efforts aimed at improving youth success
- Ensure afterschool providers/organizations are actively connected to the Denver Afterschool Alliance
- Advocate for quality afterschool programs as a strategy to youth success



The Denver Afterschool Alliance

Launched in 2012 thanks to a grant from The Wallace Foundation and local foundations, the Denver Afterschool Alliance is a diverse collaborative of stakeholders including the City and County of Denver, Denver Public Schools, and many of Denver's community-based and funding organizations.

Mission: To develop a sustainable, **citywide afterschool system** to increase access to and participation in quality afterschool programs for all of Denver's youth in order to keep kids safe, inspire kids to learn and prepare them for the future.

Vision: All Denver youth will achieve success now and in the future through active participation in diverse, quality afterschool programs.