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“The more healthy relationships a child has, the more likely he will be to recover from trauma and thrive. Relationships are the agents of change and the most powerful therapy is human love.”

-Bruce D. Perry, M.D.,Ph.D.



Making connections

- Who am I?
- Who are you?
- What communities are your schools in?
- What youth programs are in your community?
- What is the Montana Afterschool Alliance?



Partnerships

Create sustainable structures of statewide, regional and local partnerships.



Policy

Support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure resources needed to sustain programs.



Program support

Support statewide systems and partnerships to ensure programs are of high-quality.

Examples of Out-of-School Time (OST) programs:

- Those in your schools!
- YMCAs
- Boys and Girls Clubs
- Before and Afterschool Clubs
- Parks and Recreation
- Summer Camps
- Libraries
- More!



This is Comprehensive Afterschool

Hands-on, project-based learning



STEM, arts, and music



Planning and preparing for college



Youth-led learning and social activities



Physical activity and healthy food



Academic enrichment and support



Trusted, responsive community resource



Wrap-around and emergency supports for families



Culturally-relevant



Service learning and community projects



Career awareness, exploration, and preparation



Funding for OST in MT includes:

- Parent Fees
- Private Grants
- School Funding: General Funds / Title IV Funds / Perkins
- Individual Donations
- Business Contributions
- Federal Funding/Programs:
 - 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants
 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER)
 - State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)
 - Child Care and Development Fund if licensed (Best Beginnings Scholarships)
 - Missoula, Great Falls, Helena, Billings
 - Americorps VISTA (Not financial support but cost programs less)
 - USDA Snack & Summer Meal Supports
- Municipal Funding: Rec Departments, Libraries

Federal Programs That Can Support OST Projects



Corporation for
NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE 





How have you successfully partnered with your afterschool program?



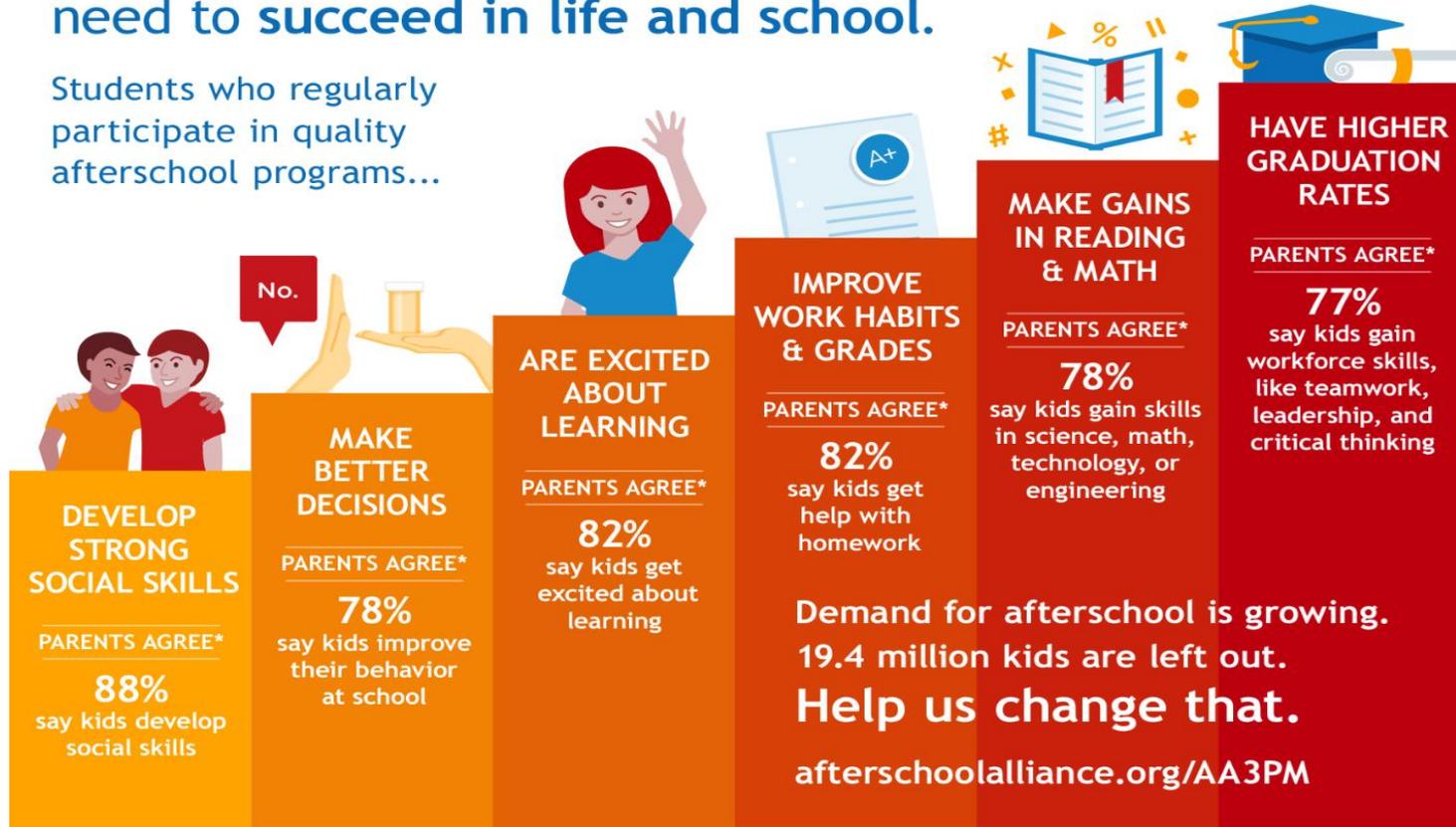


How can partnering with an afterschool program benefit your school (especially if you transition to a 4 day school week)?



Afterschool provides the building blocks kids need to succeed in life and school.

Students who regularly participate in quality afterschool programs...



A Four-Day School Week

Challenges:

- The costs are shifted to programs
- Programs already at or over capacity
- Lack of staff
- Lack of space
- Variable hours
- No transportation
- One day of meals lost

Opportunities:

- Programs help make up for the lost learning
- Programs have more time with kids
- Longer time for enrichment activities
- Time for field trips and guest speakers

To Succeed

- Meet with programs to discuss how to be successful before changing
- Provide more funding or share funding
- Give programs access to your school space, playgrounds, gyms, etc.
- Transportation: Make sure kids can get to and from programs on a day when buses wouldn't normally run
- Pass through funding, prepare and deliver the extra meals to programs, and/or allow preparation at your kitchen
- Share school staff with programs, provide incentives to take on extra role
- Shared information from schools on kids homework needs
- Coordinate learning



Other ideas?

What problems have you encountered?

What solutions have you implemented?

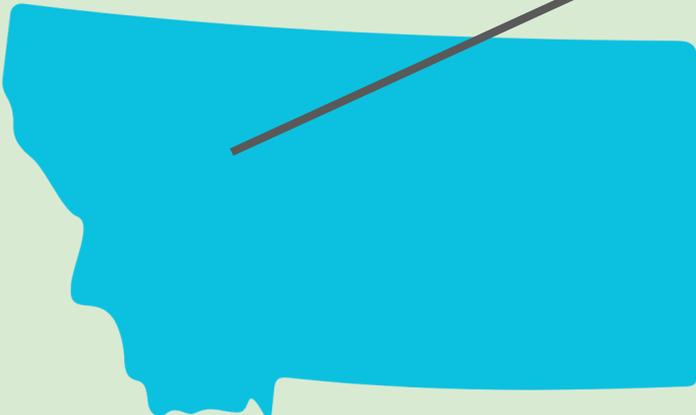


Funding Partnership Success Stories

Belt, Montana

Belt Public Schools dedicated a portion of their ESSER funds to support re-engagement and learning through a new month-long summer school program and restarting an afterschool program that was once offered by the district.

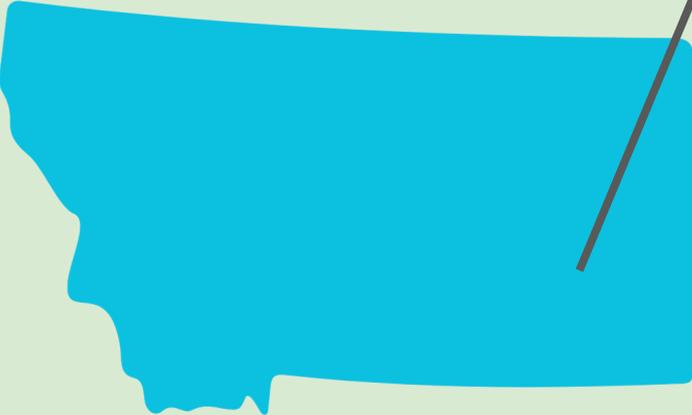
ESSER funds enabled the district to tailor its afterschool programming for its elementary, middle, and high school students. For example, the district employed targeted tutoring to provide academic support to elementary schoolers, provided both homework help and mentorship to middle schoolers, and offered classes on topics such as life skills to help re-engage high schoolers.



“ We saw high schoolers almost needed more of the social interaction part rather than the academic part...We were trying to figure out ways to get them back. ”

-Belt High School District Administrator

Source: Afterschool Alliance
<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/covid/partnerships.cfm>

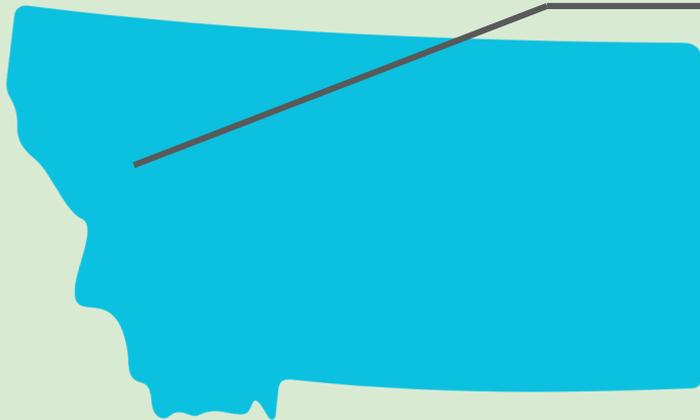


Miles City, Montana

The Miles City Unified School District employed ESSER III funds to expand its out-of-school time learning opportunities. In addition to the district offering before-school programming three times a week, it provided afterschool programs twice a week and was able to extend its summer programming from one to three months. The before school, afterschool, and summer programs focused primarily on academic support, with school-day teachers able to refer students in need of extra help to programs.

Source: Afterschool Alliance

<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/covid/partnerships.cfm>



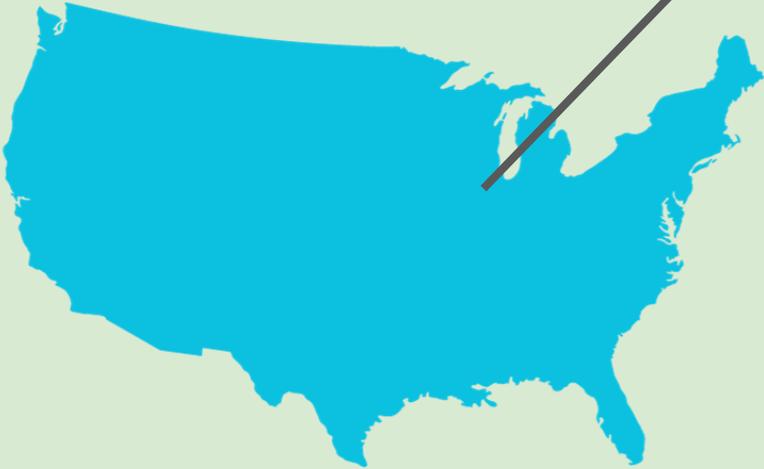
St. Ignatius, Montana

The Boys and Girls Club of the Flathead Reservation & Lake County utilized \$270,000 in ARP ESSER III learning loss funds to start a new club in St. Ignatius. The program was able to access these funds because of the strong relationship with the St. Ignatius schools. The grant assisted the Club in purchasing a building nearby the school and launch the program. The Club also has community support to continue programming after ARP ESSER funding expires.

Source: Afterschool Alliance
<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/covid/partnerships.cfm>

“
Kids get a safe place to go, academic support, a meal. It’s equally important for parents who work. It’s hard to be back home by 3:30pm. We’ve been trying for years to get a Club here in town. It’s great we had the opportunity to get the foundation laid down.
”

-Superintendent, St. Ignatius



Bloomington, Illinois

District 87 at Bloomington Public Schools ran a summer program through their local ESSER III funds in partnership with community-based organizations (CBOs), including the Children's Discovery Museum, Illinois State University for Math and Science, local Boys & Girls Clubs, and more. A “Community Educator” group with more than 30 organizations planned the summer program, which featured academic programming in the morning with school-day teachers and activities in the afternoon run by CBOs.

Source: Afterschool Alliance
<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/covid/partnerships.cfm>

Springfield, Oregon



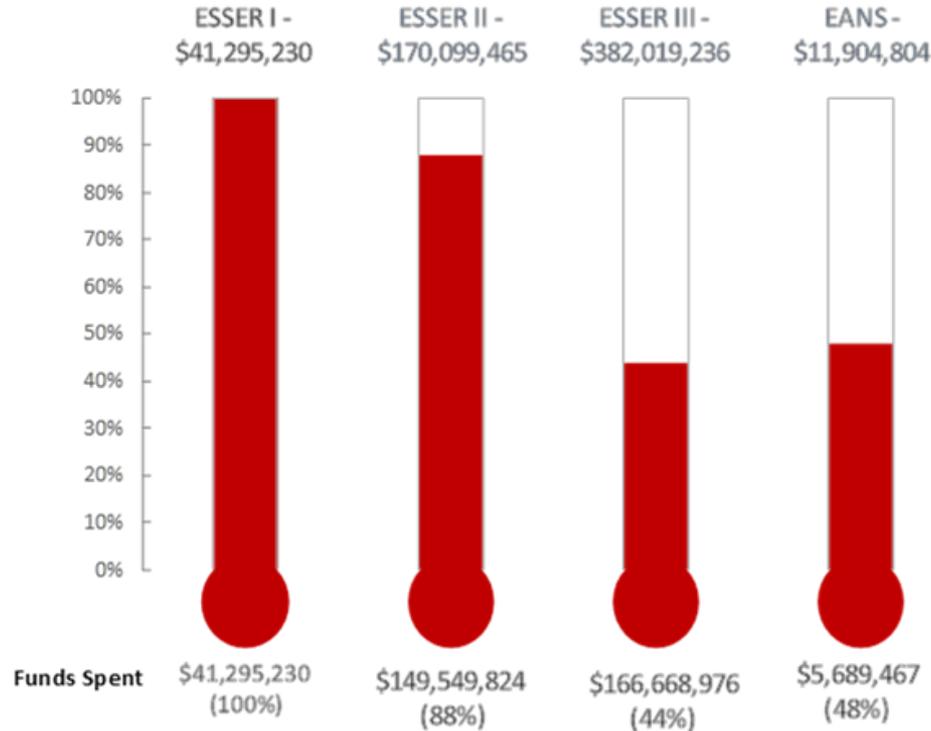
Source: Willamalane 2021–22 Annual Report

In 2021, Springfield Public Schools partnered with Willamalane Parks and Recreation to bring no-cost summer learning experiences to children across the district. ARP ESSER funds made it possible for Willamalane to offer 125 additional summer camps, and 728 Springfield students received scholarships to attend these camps, which included: outdoor camp, youth sports camp, STEM camp, and more. The district and Parks and Recreation department also expanded another of Willamalane’s summer programs called 1PASS, a singular pass that grants entry into more than a dozen locations across the city, including, but not limited to, museums, aquatic centers, a trampoline park, a golf course, a bowling alley, and a climbing wall. Using ARP ESSER funds, Springfield Public Schools & Willamalane Parks and Recreation made the pass available to every student in the district over the summer. Almost 3,500 students received the pass at no cost.

Source: Afterschool Alliance
<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/covid/partnerships.cfm>

COVID Education Funding Status

(Updated Monthly)



Source: <https://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information/ESSER>

ESSER III Updates

Deadline September 30, 2024

The ESSER III obligation deadline is September 30, 2024. Has your School District considered using any currently unobligated state set-asides of ESSER III funds to support/grow local afterschool or summer learning programs?

14-month Extension Announced

Recently the U.S. Department of Education Announced an opportunity for states to apply for a 14-month extension to the liquidation of ESSER funds. Have you considered applying for the liquidation extension to ensure programs, including afterschool and summer, are able to serve students in the most impactful way?

Extension Request

Extension requests must contribute to the acceleration of academic success for students and highlights investments in three evidence-based strategies, one of which is increasing access to before, after, and summer learning and extended learning time.

Sustainable Funding

The sustainability of programs depends on a mix of federal, state, and local funds. Some states are allocating funding to replace ESSER and maybe Montana will get there someday. There was new funding in allocated in Michigan, New Mexico, Minnesota and even Texas.

Please consider your local afterschool program as a use for the remaining funding! Reach out to your superintendent to make a comprehensive plan or request an extension.



MONTANA

SAFE & HEALTHY
SCHOOLS PROJECT

WWW.MT-SCHOOLS.ORG

- DOJ Grant-Funded Project through School Services of Montana
- **Focus:** To prevent school violence through proactive approaches to mental health and school safety.
- **Projects:**
 - 1) “Prioritizing School and Community Wellness” community events
 - 2) “Caring School Community” scholarships
 - 3) Amplifying Existing Efforts (CPI training through the MT Council for Exceptional Children’s Conference - Pre-Conference training, April 2, 2024 - Missoula)

“Caring School Community” Program Scholarships available through the **Montana Safe & Healthy Schools Project** (a DOJ grant-funded project to prevent school violence)

- Schoolwide community-building program K-8
- Classroom and schoolwide resources and lessons for improving interpersonal skills and building a caring classroom and school community.
- Professional learning included
- Extension scholarships for schools that partner with after school/community-based OST programs for implementation

Application: tinyurl.com/caringschoolcommunities

[Flyer](#)



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Thank you for your outstanding leadership and all you do
for youth around our State!





Rachel Wanderscheid, Director

Montana Afterschool Alliance
mtafterschoolalliance.org

