



# Colorado



Colorado has seen a steady increase in the percentage of children participating in an afterschool program—growing from 11 percent in 2004 to 13 percent in 2009 to 15 percent in 2014. However, Colorado’s afterschool participation rate still falls below the national average of 18 percent. Colorado has also made progress with having fewer children alone and unsupervised after school. Colorado’s percentage of unsupervised children dropped nearly 50 percent—from 31 percent in 2009 to 17 percent in 2014.



Colorado

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## Children in Afterschool

### Afterschool program participation in Colorado

Year	Participation Rate
2014	15%
2009	13%
2004	11%

**129,579 children in 2014**

In 2014, 15% of Colorado’s children participate in an afterschool program, compared to 13% in 2009 and 11% in 2004.

### Children in an afterschool program, by grade

Grade	Participation Rate
K-5	20%
6-8	13%
9-12	11%

In 2014, 20% of Colorado’s children in grades K-5 participate in an afterschool program, compared to 13% in grades 6-8 and 11% in grades 9-12.

### Average time per week children spend in an afterschool program

2014

**7 HOURS**  
**3 DAYS**

For the purposes of this study, timing was limited to 15 hours per week in afterschool care, reflecting the hours of 3 to 6 p.m.

### Children in an afterschool program, by gender

Gender	Percentage
GIRLS	60%
BOYS	40%

### Most families piece together a variety of afterschool solutions, with 76% of Colorado’s K-12 children spending some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian. Other afterschool arrangements include traditional child care centers (7%); sibling care (13%); and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (24%).

**29%**

### Average weekly cost of afterschool programs

2014

**\$29**

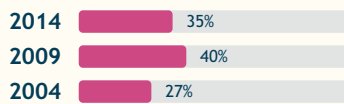
The average weekly cost only includes parents who report that they pay a fee for their child’s afterschool program.

## Children Unsupervised After School & Unmet Demand

Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available

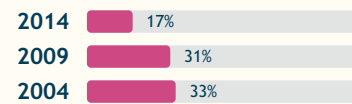
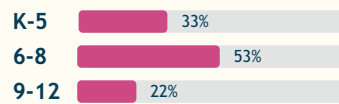
Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available, by grade level

Children unsupervised after school



256,263 children in 2014

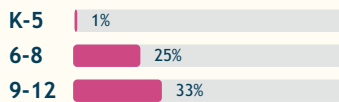
In 2014, 35% of Colorado's children would participate in an afterschool program if one were available, compared to 40% in 2009 and 27% in 2004.



146,856 children in 2014

In 2014, 17% of Colorado's children are alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

#### Children unsupervised after school, by grade



In 2014, 1% of Colorado's children in grades K-5 were unsupervised after school, compared to 25% in grades 6-8 and 33% in grades 9-12.

#### What barriers to afterschool program enrollment are Colorado families facing?

After lack of need, the predominant challenges parents face enrolling their child in an afterschool program include:

- Preference for alternative activities
- Lack of a safe way for child to get to and come home from afterschool programs

#### Average time per week children spend alone & unsupervised after school

2014

**8 HOURS**

For the purposes of this study, timing was limited to 15 hours per week, reflecting the hours of 3 to 6 p.m.

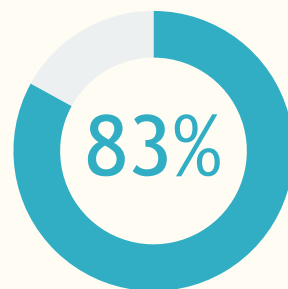
## Parent Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs -

#### Parents satisfied with their child's afterschool program

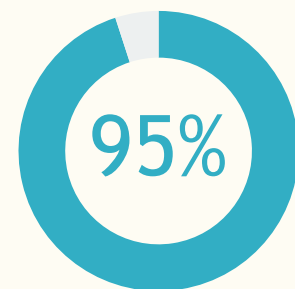


In 2014, 88% of Colorado's parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program, compared to 90% in 2009 and 95% in 2004.

#### Parents satisfied with the quality of care in their child's afterschool program



#### Parents satisfied with the safe environment of their child's afterschool program



#### Top 5 activities/services offered by afterschool programs

- Opportunities for physical activity
- Homework assistance
- Beverages, snacks and/or meals
- STEM learning opportunities

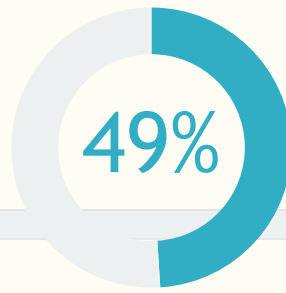
#### Parents agree that afterschool programs help children gain workforce skills

#### Top 5 factors in parents' selection of an afterschool program

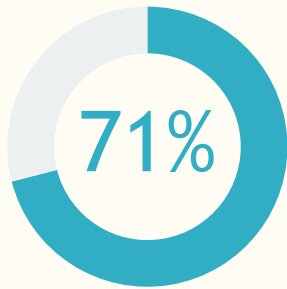
- Is a safe haven
- Quality of care
- Knowledgeable and well-trained staff
- The hours meet parents' needs

- Academic programs/clubs

- Variety of activities



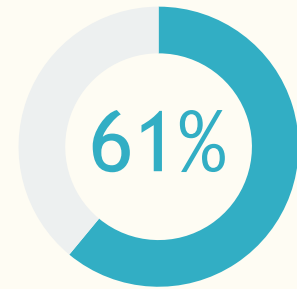
Parents agree that afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors



80%

of afterschool programs are located in a public school building

Parents agree that afterschool programs excite children about learning



#### Most common afterschool program providers

1. Public school
2. City or town (including Parks and Recreation Department)
3. Boys & Girls Clubs

## Public Support for Afterschool Programs -

79%

of Colorado parents support public funding for afterschool programs, while just 14% report receiving government assistance with the cost of afterschool.

71%

of Colorado parents agree that afterschool programs help give working parents peace of mind about their children when they are at work.

72%

of parents agree that afterschool programs help parents keep their jobs.

## Footnotes

In Colorado, 225 households and 1,023 children were screened for this study. According to the Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics data for 2011-2012, the total school enrollment in Colorado is 863,857, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in Colorado After 3PM.



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