



# Massachusetts



Two key drivers of Massachusetts' fifth place rank in to top 10 states for afterschool are the high average amount of time per week children spend in an afterschool program as well as an afterschool participation number above the national average, helping the state improve from a "state on the move" in 2009. An overwhelming percentage of Massachusetts parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program (92 percent) and support public funding for afterschool programs (89 percent), yet there remain more than 350,000 Massachusetts children not in an afterschool program who would be enrolled if a program were available to them.



Massachusetts

DEMAND

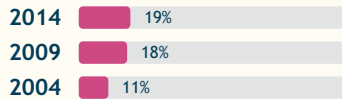
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## Children in Afterschool

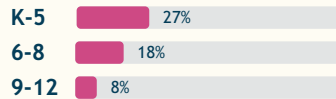
### Afterschool program participation in Massachusetts



196,562 children in 2014

In 2014, 19% of Massachusetts's children participate in an afterschool program, compared to 18% in 2009 and 11% in 2004.

### Children in an afterschool program, by grade



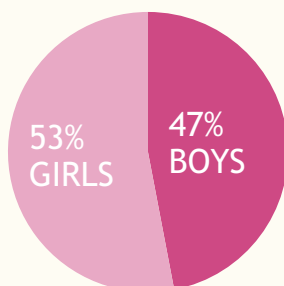
In 2014, 27% of Massachusetts's children in grades K-5 participate in an afterschool program, compared to 18% in grades 6-8 and 8% in grades 9-12.

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

2014  
**9** HOURS  
**4** 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



Most families piece together a variety of afterschool solutions, with 69% of Massachusetts'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 (10%); sibling care (14%); and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (33%).

### Average weekly cost of afterschool programs

2014

**89** \$

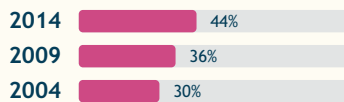
The average weekly cost only includes parents who report that they pay a fee for their child's afterschool program.

## Children Unsupervised After School & Unmet Demand

Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available

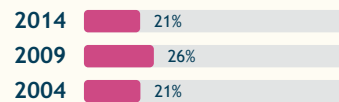
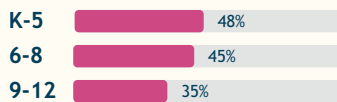
Children who would participate if an afterschool program were available, by grade level

Children unsupervised after school



362,312 children in 2014

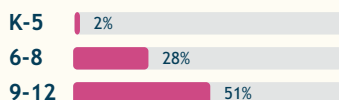
In 2014, 44% of Massachusetts's children would participate in an afterschool program if one were available, compared to 36% in 2009 and 30% in 2004.



213,966 children in 2014

In 2014, 21% of Massachusetts's children are alone and unsupervised between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

#### Children unsupervised after school, by grade



In 2014, 2% of Massachusetts's children in grades K-5 were unsupervised after school, compared to 28% in grades 6-8 and 51% in grades 9-12.

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

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

- The afterschool programs are too expensive
- Preference for alternative activities

#### 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.

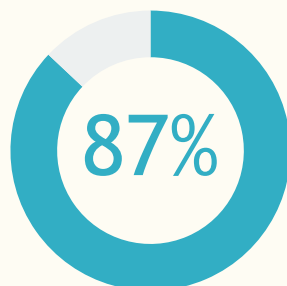
## Parent Satisfaction with Afterschool Programs -

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

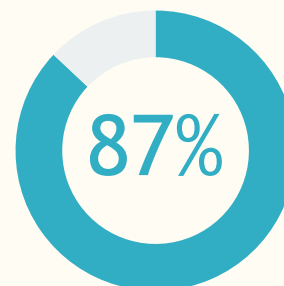


In 2014, 92% of Massachusetts's parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program, compared to 93% in 2009 and 88% in 2004.

#### 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

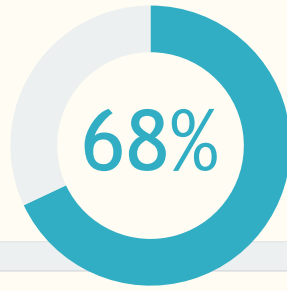
- Opportunities for physical activity
- STEM learning opportunities
- Opportunities for reading or writing

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

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

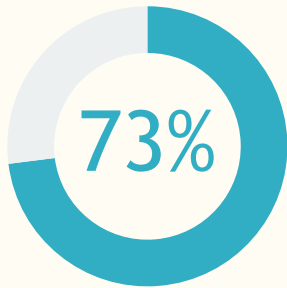
- Their child enjoys the afterschool program
- Is a safe haven

- Music or art
- Homework assistance



- Quality of care
- Knowledgeable and well-trained staff
- Location is convenient

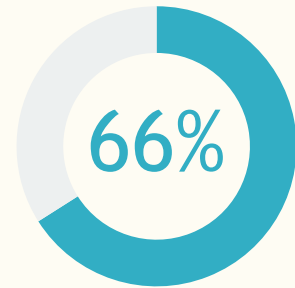
Parents agree that afterschool programs reduce the likelihood that youth will engage in risky behaviors



70%

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. YMCAs
3. City or town (including Parks and Recreation Department)

## Public Support for Afterschool Programs

89%

of Massachusetts parents support public funding for afterschool programs, while just 18% report receiving government assistance with the cost of afterschool.

80%

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

81%

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

## Footnotes

In Massachusetts, 276 households and 1,054 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 Massachusetts is 1,023,759, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in Massachusetts After 3PM.



**Afterschool Alliance**

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