



21st Century Community Learning Centers

The Center for Human Services Research (CHSR) conducted an evaluation of the Albany [21st Century Community Learning Centers \(21st CCLC\) program](#), in accordance with federal and state requirements.

As part of the federally funded 21st CCLC program, the [New York State Education Department](#) awarded the [City School District of Albany](#) a competitive \$2.7 million grant. The 21st CCLC program was designed to support the creation or expansion of community learning centers that served students, particularly those who attend high-poverty or low-performing schools, and their families. The City School District of Albany implemented 21st CCLC afterschool and summer programs for K-12 students and their families at six sites. During the school year, each site offered an hour of academic tutoring daily to participating students. After tutoring, students engaged in recreational and enrichment programming aligned with the themes of the high school's four magnet academies. This enrichment time included activities in areas such as fine arts and theater, STEM, career readiness, and leadership and service initiatives. The four elementary sites offered similar enrichment programming during the summer.

Through participation in these activities, elementary and middle school students could explore the different themed areas, while high school students could extend their learning in alignment with the theme of their chosen academy. The Albany 21st CCLC program also offered programming for families of students. New York State's Department of Labor provided on-site assistance to parents searching for employment. Sites also scheduled regular family activities and created family resources centers.

EVALUATION & RESEARCH

The evaluation conducted by CHSR provided comprehensive information on program implementation and outcomes. The mixed-methods evaluation drew on multiple sources of data, including student and teacher surveys, site visits, attendance and disciplinary records, student grades, and standardized test scores. Specific indicators were developed for the evaluation based on three long-term project goals:

- improve academic and behavioral outcomes for students at six target schools,
- expand support for parents' educational and professional development, and
- build and sustain school-based partnerships with local service providers.