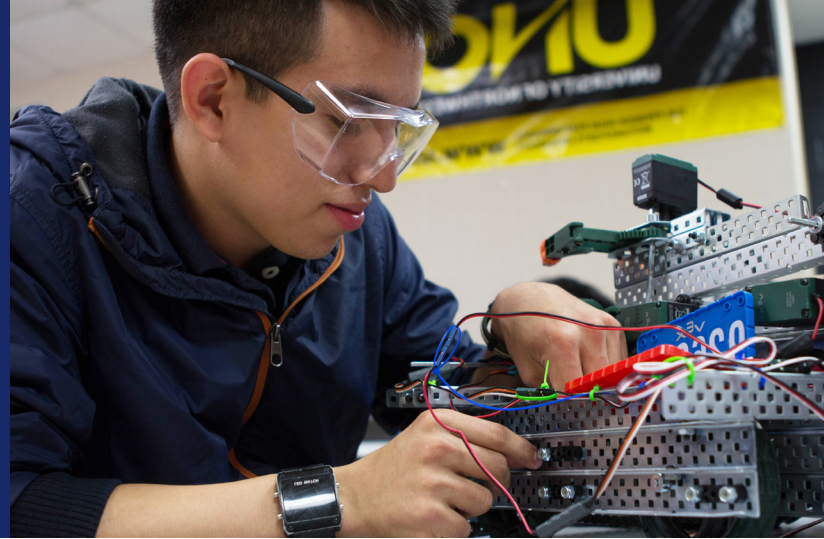


Spotlight on Comprehensive Out-of-School Time Programs



Comprehensive out-of-school time (OST) providers offer free and low-cost programming to Colorado youth, every day after school and for most of the summer. Tens of thousands of Colorado youth participate in these programs while their parents are at work.

Comprehensive OST programs operate at the nexus of schools, families, and communities to expand learning opportunities for youth. They provide time for deeper learning and enrichment, creative spaces for exploring careers, and caring mentors who are trained to help youth build healthy relationships and develop leadership and workforce skills. OST programs build on what elementary and middle school students learn in school.

Value of Comprehensive OST Programs

OST programs use evidence-based practices to support the needs of youth, families, and communities. Decades of data show comprehensive programs:



Support kids' social and emotional development



Accelerate learning gains and improve reading & math skills



Prevent youth violence



Boost on-time graduation



Colorado comprehensive OST programs help working parents keep their jobs.

What Does Comprehensive Out-of-School Time Look Like?

Hands-on, project-based learning



STEM, arts, and music



Youth-led learning and social activities



Wrap-around and emergency supports for families



Academic enrichment and support



Planning and preparing for college



Physical activity and healthy food



Trusted, responsive community resource



Culturally relevant



Career awareness, exploration, and preparation



Service learning and community projects



Comprehensive out-of-school time is essential to Colorado families.

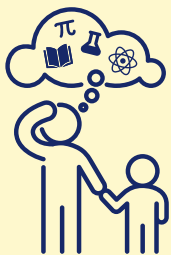


Demand for comprehensive out-of-school time (OST) programs grows each year, and, in 2020, it reached an all-time high. Families with low incomes living in under-resourced neighborhoods are most likely to lack access to these affordable programs.

For every child enrolled in an comprehensive out-of-school time program in Colorado, **five more are waiting to get in.**



This means nearly half of the kids (400,000) in our state would enroll if a program was available.



40%

of Colorado parents report that afterschool programs are not even available in their community.

For example, there are counties in Colorado that do not have comprehensive out-of-school time programs, leaving working families with no options for their kids to participate in expanded learning opportunities. Access issues also persist in urban and suburban areas of our state.

Lack of comprehensive out-of-school time programs cost Colorado families and businesses.



More than 145,000 Colorado kids were alone and unsupervised between the hours of 2 and 6 P.M. in 2020. This is especially troubling because these hours – when the school day is over – are the peak time for youth to commit crimes, become victims of violence, or use illegal substances.



According to a Brandeis University survey, parents report losing 8 days of work per year and businesses up to \$300 billion per year due to parental concerns about afterschool care.

Colorado must do more to support our youth, working families, and economy. We need more investment in comprehensive out-of-school time programs across the state so that every Colorado family has access to these live-changing programs.

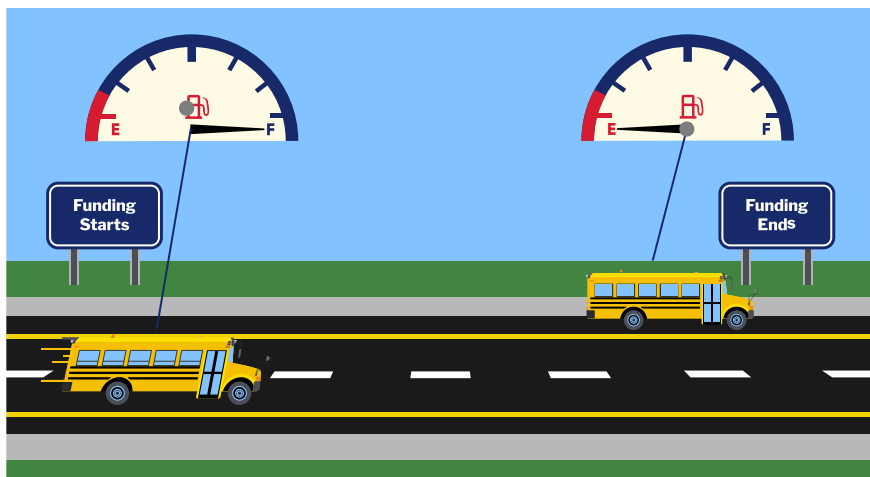
The Case for Investing in Comprehensive Out-of-School Time Programs



Despite evidence that comprehensive out-of-school time (OST) programs benefit youth, families and the economy, they are chronically underfunded in Colorado. There is no dedicated state funding stream and only one federal funding source, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC), to sustain the cost of OST programming.

21st CCLC grants are awarded in three-year cycles, and OST programs face a significant challenge trying to sustain funding after this grant period ends. This means that at the end of the grant cycle, programs run the risk of:

- Scaling back programming
- Reducing the number of youth they can serve
- Closing their doors



We must invest in Colorado's youth and families through comprehensive OST.

Reliable and sustainable OST funding would ensure:



Affordability. Programs could continue to be offered for free or at a low cost, which is particularly important for families with low incomes who need more affordable OST options.



Accessibility. Colorado needs more comprehensive OST programs statewide, especially in neighborhoods with limited opportunities for youth and families.



Did You Know?

Families with low incomes living in underserved neighborhoods need access to comprehensive OST the most. OST has a proven impact on kids growing up in low-income communities.

Bipartisan support for public funding for afterschool programs in Colorado is high, with parents on both sides of the aisle in favor of funding programs that provide afterschool opportunities.



93% of Democrats



92% of Republicans



88% of Independents

With sustainable funding, EVERY Colorado child could access comprehensive OST programs' life-changing opportunities.