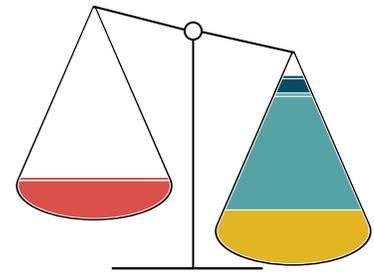


AFTERSCHOOL IN OREGON

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



For every dollar Oregon invests in afterschool programs, \$4.60 is returned to our state through reduced drug and alcohol addiction, increased graduation rates, reduced crime rates, and lower healthcare costs due to increased physical activity.

This return on investment study uses existing research and Oregon-specific data to estimate the returns from a theoretical public investment to subsidize afterschool programs. First, the study uses current public funding initiatives to estimate the cost to subsidize afterschool programs for every youth in Oregon that wants to attend one. At a rate of \$524 dollars per year per student, it is estimated that an investment of \$122,812,500 would subsidize¹ afterschool programs for 234,375 youth.² Other costs include additional schooling costs due to a reduction in dropouts, and additional state funding for public higher-education institutions due to higher graduation rates and increased college enrollment. These costs are summarized in the table on the next page.

Second, **this report uses existing research on the impact of afterschool programs to make estimates of the monetary returns to society using data specific to Oregon’s schools and communities.** The returns explored in this report are somewhat limited; many benefits of afterschool programs are under-researched, difficult to quantify, or indirectly related to our theoretical investment. Nonetheless, this report analyzes a range of benefits, including: reduced drug and alcohol addiction, reduced grade repetition, reduced dropout rates and increased graduation rates, reduced juvenile crime, and increased physical activity. These returns are summarized in the table below, and explanations of each calculation are contained within the report.

Third, this report makes recommendations based on the findings. Ultimately, **we recommend the creation of a dedicated youth and child services fund that supports youth engagement, social and emotional wellness, and provides enrichment in the hours and months when schools are closed.** Such a fund represents a significant investment and warrants careful research and consideration, and key considerations are proposed in the report.

The numbers presented in this report are revealing, but they are just one part of the equation. Afterschool programs have incredible potential to benefit youth, families, and communities in all parts of Oregon, but it is not enough for families to simply have access to programs. They must have access to programs that meet their needs, respond to their culture, adapt to their abilities, and fit into their communities. OregonASK demonstrated last year that **access to afterschool programs in Oregon is not distributed equitably; the very youth that stand to gain the most from programs have the least access.**³ More work is needed to contextualize the findings from this report and to ensure that access to afterschool programs is expanded in a way that is responsive to real needs.

¹ The investment amount is based on current funding practices for Oregon’s 21st CCLC grant-funded programs, which assume that grantees will leverage additional funds and in-kind resources. An annual cost of \$524 per youth does not represent the true cost of afterschool programming, but rather the current subsidization rate provided through 21st CCLC.

² According to the Afterschool Alliance’s America After 3PM 2020 report, there are 234,375 youth in Oregon who would participate in an afterschool program if one were available to them

³ OregonASK Expanded Learning Partnership (2020)

Annual Costs & Returns Summary

COSTS	
Subsidization of afterschool programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment amount is based on current funding practices for Oregon's 21st CCLC grant-funded programs, which assume that grantees will leverage additional funds and in-kind resources. It does not represent the true cost of afterschool programming, but rather the current subsidization rate provided through 21st CCLC. This investment would subsidize afterschool programs for 234,375 youth (more than currently served) 	\$122,812,500
Increased school costs due to fewer dropouts	\$1,005,858
Increased state funding for public higher-education institutions due to higher graduation rates and increased college enrollment	\$51,744
TOTAL	\$123,870,102
RETURNS	
Quantifiable Returns on Investment , which are realized for regular program attendees, a subset of all attendees (87,422 out of 234,375)	
Reduced grade repetition	\$3,253,516
Increased graduation rates , representing higher earnings for, and tax revenue from, graduates	\$41,244,849
Reduced drug and alcohol addiction	\$3,829,098
Reduced juvenile and adult crime	\$353,400,720
Increased physical activity , representing reduced health-care costs from lower obesity rates	\$167,629,628
TOTAL	\$569,357,811
Non-Quantifiable Returns on Investment	
Increased food security and health through provided meals and snacks	
Increased parental earnings through ability to maintain a job without worrying about childcare	
Increased social emotional learning and employability of youth	