



**S**  
Science

**T**  
Technology

**E**  
Engineering

**M**  
Math



Afterschool and summer programs provide hands-on learning opportunities and a natural space for students to explore, learn, and grow. These programs spark students' interest in STEM and computer science<sup>1</sup> subjects, expose them to future careers, and support school-day learning, all while developing a new generation of problem solvers. But, inequities exist and too many young people are missing out.

## Opportunities for STEM learning in North Carolina afterschool programs and summer camps

According to the America After 3PM survey, 192,548 North Carolina children participate in an afterschool program and 145,530 children have opportunities to participate in STEM learning in those programs. Compared to the previous America After 3PM survey, the percentage of families reporting their child's afterschool program offers STEM learning has increased.

### STEM learning in North Carolina's afterschool programs

Parents reporting that their child's afterschool program offers STEM learning opportunities



STEM opportunities extend into the summer. Based on the 2019 America After 3PM summer data, 40,585 kids participated (2.5%) in summer STEM camps in North Carolina.

<sup>1</sup> The 2020 America After 3PM survey was the first time that computer science was included as an option for parents to select when identifying different options of STEM activities in their child's afterschool program.

## STEM learning in the time of COVID-19:

**Nationally, afterschool and summer programs continue to offer STEM learning opportunities**

A survey conducted in early 2021 found that 76 percent of afterschool programs were providing STEM learning opportunities, which is similar to the rates of STEM offerings before the pandemic. A June 2021 survey found that 83 percent of summer programs were physically open this year, a nearly 70 percent increase from 2020, with 72 percent offering STEM learning opportunities.

Afterschool programs offering STEM learning opportunities during the pandemic



Summer programs offering STEM learning\*



\*Among programs operating during summer 2021

Source: Afterschool Alliance. (2021). *Afterschool in the Time of COVID-19 Surveys*.

# North Carolina parents value STEM learning in afterschool and summer programs

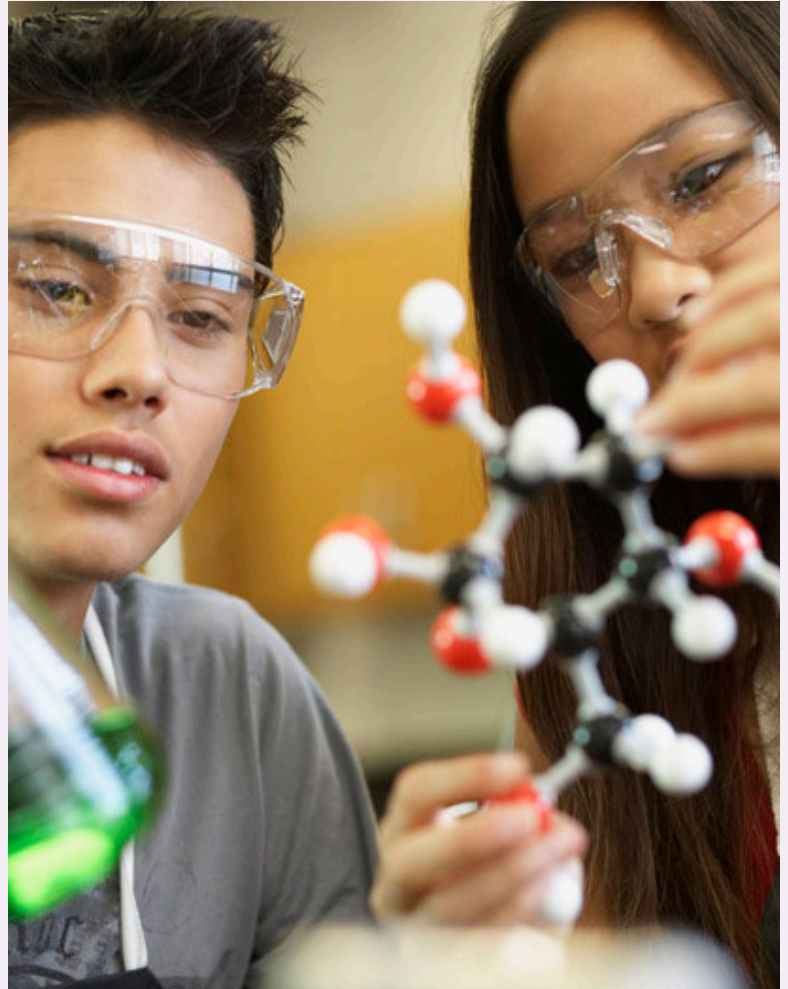
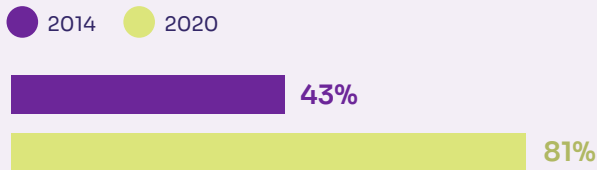
## More parents agree that STEM learning in afterschool helps kids gain interest and skills related to STEM

Parents reporting they agree that afterschool programs help children gain interest and skills in STEM



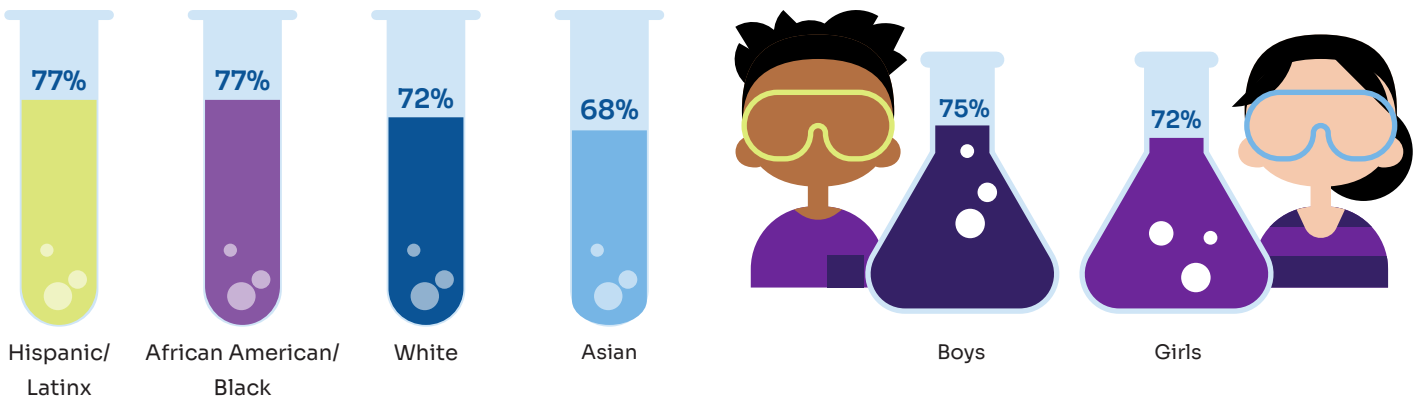
## STEM and computer science are growing in importance for parents when selecting their child's afterschool program

Parents reporting that STEM and computer science learning opportunities are important when choosing an afterschool program



## Afterschool programs reach populations traditionally underrepresented in STEM\*

Women and people of color are underrepresented in STEM professions. Nationally, parents of Black and Latinx students report that their child's afterschool program offers STEM learning at higher rates than parents of White students. Girls have opportunities to participate in STEM learning at similar rates to boys.

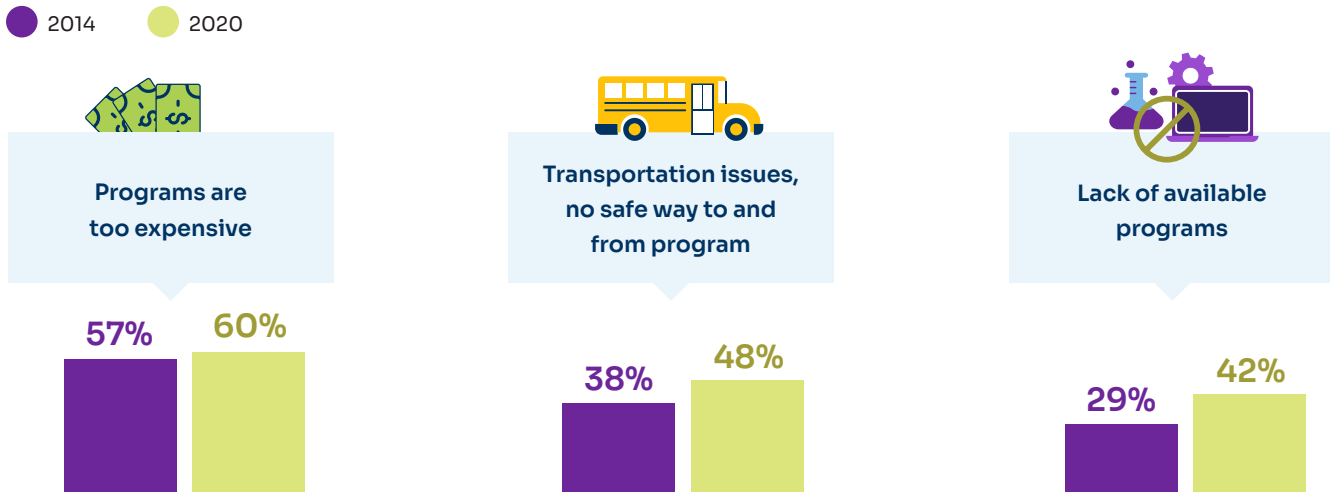


\*Among students enrolled in afterschool

## Many North Carolina children are missing out

In North Carolina, for **every child in an afterschool program, 3 are waiting to get in**. Unmet demand for summer programs is also high for families in North Carolina. In 2019, more than 401,000 children would have been enrolled in a summer program if one were available to them.

### In North Carolina, cost and access top the list of roadblocks to afterschool program participation



## Parents support public funding for afterschool and summer programs

**89%** of North Carolina parents in favor of public funding for afterschool

**91%** of North Carolina parents in favor of public funding for summer learning opportunities

Public funding brings greater opportunities for students to explore hands-on STEM learning in their afterschool programs.

Afterschool and summer STEM learning offer unique benefits and reach youth traditionally underrepresented in STEM, but millions are missing out. Help us ensure all children have access to afterschool and summer STEM learning.

### About the survey

America After 3PM is a national survey of parents or guardians of school-aged children, screening 31,055 households and having 14,393 households completing in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. At least 200 households completed interviews in every state and Washington, D.C., between January 27 and March 17, 2020. Where the minimum could not be met, supplemental telephone interviews were conducted. Data were collected by Edge Research on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance. The percentages and projected numbers in America After 3PM are based on survey responses from parents. In North Carolina, 927 households and 1,915 children were screened for this study. Child-level statewide projections and total school enrollment numbers are based on 2018-2019 Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics data. Total school enrollment for North Carolina is 1,617,238.

The America After 3PM special report, *STEM Learning in Afterschool on the Rise, But Barriers and Inequities Exist*, is based on research commissioned and funded by Overdeck Family Foundation. Overdeck Family Foundation was founded in 2011 by John and Laura Overdeck with the goal of providing all children the opportunity to unlock their potential. They focus exclusively on enhancing education, funding efforts both inside and outside of school in the areas of early childhood, informal STEM education, and K-9 programs that include supporting educators and student-centered learning environments.

For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: [afterschoolalliance.org/aa3pm](https://afterschoolalliance.org/aa3pm).

Data from this special report is based on the 2020 America After 3PM survey results, made possible with the support of the New York Life Foundation, Overdeck Family Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Altria Group, the Walton Family Foundation, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.



**Afterschool Alliance**

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs.