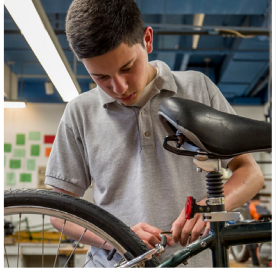


May 2021

North Carolina After 3PM SUMMER

Time for a Game-Changing Summer, With Opportunity and Growth for All of America's Youth

For many students, summer is a time for family vacations, new friendships, new adventures in camps and summer learning programs, or taking summer classes to catch up or get ahead in school. For families, affordable summer programs and camps can be a lifeline.

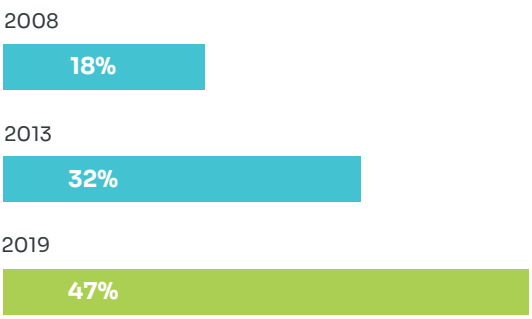
Yet, for families in North Carolina, unmet demand for summer programs is high. In 2019, **nearly 401,000** children would have been enrolled in a program if one were available to them.

North Carolina children are taking part in a wide variety of summer experiences, with parents giving programs top marks

In North Carolina, 415,890 children (26%) participated in a structured summer experience in 2019, which includes summer learning programs, sports programs, summer camps, summer school, summer jobs, or internships. Compared to the previous America After 3PM survey, the percentage of families reporting that at least one child was in a summer learning program increased. Parents report that they were pleased with their child's 2019 summer experience, with 97% of North Carolina parents reporting satisfaction.

Participation in summer programs (household level)

Percentage of families reporting that their child participated in a summer program



SUMMER 2021

What will be available for kids?

79% of summer programs plan to serve families

But providers are worried about:

Reduced enrollment due to COVID-19	52%
Hiring enough staff	44%
Addressing learning loss	42%
Having the resources to meet families' needs	36%

Due to lack of funding, many programs will:

Need to raise parent fees or find new revenue sources	30%

More than 8 in 10 providers (82%) are concerned about their program's long-term funding and future due to COVID-19.

Online survey of 1,235 afterschool and summer providers, representing more than 6,400 program sites, conducted February 19-March 15, 2021.

North Carolina parents have a vision for summer learning

While a safe environment (96%) and knowledgeable and caring staff (97%) are at the top of the list of factors that influence the selection of a summer program, parents also prioritize building connections, exploration, and being active in the summer. North Carolina parents report the following factors as important to their child's summer experience selection:

Opportunities to build life skills	**91%**
Physical activity	**93%**
A variety of activities	**86%**
Opportunities to experience the outdoors	**84%**
Preventing learning loss	**77%**

Structured summer experiences by the numbers

97%

parents satisfied with their child's structured summer experience

83%

families with a child in a voluntary summer program or a specialty camp or program (e.g., arts, drama, sports)*

**Among families with a child in a structured summer experience*

	Voluntary summer programs	Specialty camp or programs
Average number of weeks	5 weeks	4.4 weeks
Average hours per day	6.1 hours	5.6 hours
Average weekly cost*	$172.00	$161.70

**Among parents who report that they pay a fee*

Top 5 Locations

Voluntary summer programs

1. Community-based organization
2. Public or private school
3. Other
4. City or town facility
5. Religious organization

Specialty camp or programs

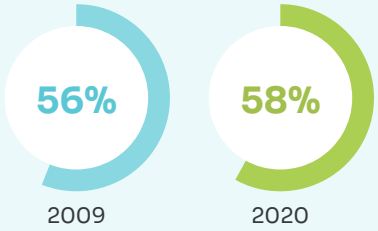
1. Community-based organization
2. Public or private school
3. Other
4. Religious organization
5. City or town facility

Too many North Carolina kids are missing out on summer programs

There are 400,713 children (33%) in North Carolina who are not in a summer program, but would be enrolled in a program if one were available to them. At the household level, 58% of families say that they would have enrolled their child in a summer program if one were available, compared to 56% in 2009.

Unmet demand for summer programs (household level)

Percentage of families without a child in a summer program reporting that they would have enrolled their child in a summer program if one were available



Factors preventing families from enrolling in a summer program include:

Programs are too expensive **43%**

Family does other things during the summer **32%**

Issues with location or transportation **21%**

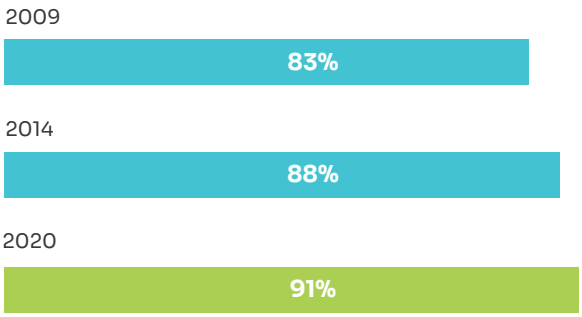
1 in 6 parents (16%) report that there were no summer programs available in their community

Parents want summer learning programs funded

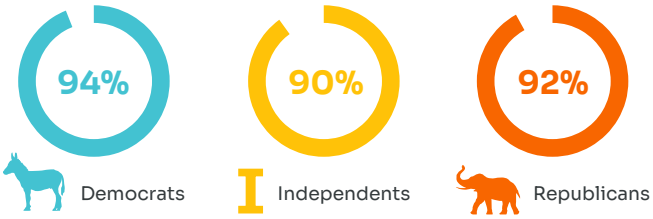
An overwhelming majority of North Carolina parents (91%) are in favor of public funding for summer learning opportunities, with strong bipartisan support.

Consistent support for funding of summer learning programs in North Carolina

Percentage of parents in favor of public funding for summer learning opportunities



Support is strong and bipartisan



We can help kids re-engage, recharge, and rebound from the pandemic by investing in summer enrichment

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. A total of 29,595 households, including 53,287 children, were surveyed and answered questions regarding ways in which their child or children were cared for during the summer of 2019. Data was 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, 885 households and 1,690 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.

For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: afterschoolalliance.org/aa3pm.

The America After 3PM special report, *Time for a Game-Changing Summer, With Opportunity and Growth for All of America's Youth*, is based on research commissioned and funded by The Wallace Foundation as part of its mission to foster equity and improvements in learning and enrichment for young people, and in the arts for everyone by supporting and sharing effective ideas and practices.

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

America After 3PM SUMMER

Afterschool Alliance

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