

Building Sustainability : Locally, Statewide, and Nationally

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Clear Evidence:

21st Century Community Learning
Centers

1997 = \$1 million in 10 schools

2004 = \$1 billion in 7000 schools or
school-linked programs

14.3 million children take care of
themselves after the school day ends.

Just 6.5 million children participate in
afterschool programs

Parents of another 15.3 million children
say they would participate if one as
available

Afterschool Alliance, 2003

The same study
found 31% of
school age children
in Wisconsin go
home alone.

If children are going to meet recent increases in academic standards, they are going to need more time, more help, and more connections.

Afterschool and summer school programs are natural allies in helping children learn more.

For many students, “time is not on their side unless we use it differently.”

94% of the public support two items to close the achievement gap:

1. Encourage parent involvement
2. provide more instructional time

Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll

Knowledge Explosion

Stored information doubled from 1999-2003

This equals 5 exabytes of new information

It would take half a million libraries the size of the Library of Congress to store it



Growing evidence that low-income students lose nearly 3 months of achievement during the summer months each year.

Clearly time is not on the side of low-income students unless we use it better and differently.

We need “Time
Busters” and “Time
Extenders”

“Education Era”

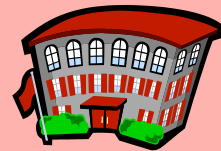
Only with more and better
education can we turn all this
information into something useful.

It seems we are permanently locked
into a 175-180 day school year and an
8am to 3pm schedule.

Yet we live in a 24/7 world.

Keeping the schoolhouse door locked
80% of the time that children are
awake makes no sense!

This is especially true
since we are already
paying for the
construction and
maintenance of the
buildings, classrooms,
and playing fields.



As well as the libraries, computer,
music instruments, and laboratories

Between 1947 and 1999 the numbers of mothers of preschoolers in the workforce increased from 12% to 64%

Mothers of school-aged children increased from 27% to almost 80%.

Parents want more than babysitting.

They want enriching programs that include the arts, academic support, physical fitness, and service learning.

Research has shown that programs that include these opportunities increases retention and chances for success



Common Elements of Quality Afterschool Programs

- Supportive relationships between staff and students
- Opportunities for students to participate in activities that they care about and have a voice and choice in.
- Opportunities for mastery and skill-building

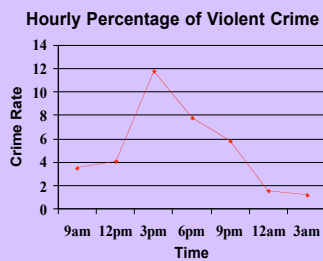
-Vandell, D. (2004). Campus Connections of the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Education, p.4

Converting regular schools into community learning centers is in fact an important “Family Value.”

Corporate Voices for Working Families

advocating for the expansion of quality afterschool and summer learning programs because productivity suffers between 3-6pm while employees are worried about their children

Time Afterschool



Fight Crime Invest in Kids, 1999

A Recent Survey

9 out of 10 voters agree that children need some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day.

Afterschool Alliance, 2003

Local Example

“Rather than let the popular programs disappear, the ... District voters agreed to allow an extra tax be levied with programs financed through Fund 80 – the Community Service Fund.”

The Star News, 8/12/2004

Despite the best intentions and well-laid plans, no program can have much lasting impact if it does not survive due to lack of financial and community support.

Generally, a program is started by applying for some state or federal grant funding.

While this is a good start, this funding is rarely for more than 3-5 years.

How do you go about securing that money and other resources?

How do you create the environment in the schools and community to sustain quality afterschool and summer programs?

Which revenue streams are the best match for your goals?

How can you create new funding streams and other support in your state?

This Morning's Purpose:

Provide answers to and create discussion about questions related to sustainability issues.

National Afterschool and Community Learning Resource Network

Polled a sample of 21st Century grantees from around the country – asked to give advice in two ways:

- rate 11 sources of funding
- offer their own words on what program providers should do to keep their program moving forward

Findings

First finding: no strategy was rated lower than 4.9 – suggesting most were related at least quite important

Second finding: most important suggestions

- In kind resources from a school district
- A half-time coordinator paid for by the district

Findings

Third finding: Two other highly rated findings:

- “a meaningful contribution from a local foundation”
- “financial support from the city or county government”

Findings

Fourth finding: The following were considered to be quite important:

- A sliding fee or volunteer hours provided by parents
- College work-study students or college volunteers
- A specific portion of a person's time donated by 2-3 youth serving organizations
- Cultural groups supplying artists and music instructors

- A corps of senior citizens who help every week.
- High school students doing community service every week.
- One of the items funded by the United Way.

21st Century Grantees – Voices from the Field:

1. Create a Quality Program Coupled with Constant Outreach
2. Collaborative and Develop Win-Win Partnerships
3. Identify and Build a Portfolio of Funding

Clearly, partnerships and collaboration seem to have the most potential.



Starting early is key.

Constantly communicating positive results is also important.

Sharing the popularity of the afterschool program into the greater community.

One Key Area that was Understated

Private philanthropy and foundation fundraising

Perhaps partnering with a non-profit may help sustainability by finding funding sources not typically tapped by schools.

Operating on one grant without developing partnerships will likely result in the termination of the program when that grant runs out.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Community educators and afterschool providers and their allies should be strong and continuous advocates working for increased funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers at the federal level.

State governments should also be encouraged to expand their funding for quality afterschool programs and community learning centers.

Cutting edge experts are thinking about ways to include afterschool as a component of school finance formulas.

In Massachusetts, top educators are asking their Supreme Court to consider afterschool programs

“to meet its constitutional obligation to provide all children with the level of education to which they are entitled.”

State Members of Congress

If supportive, host a reception to thank them and show them the good things that have happened for children and families because of their funding.

If no supportive, encourage parents and community members to contact them and ask for their support.

Afterschool Alliance Website:

<http://www.afterschoolalliance.org>

- latest development
- draft e-mails, letters to the editor
- strategies to build support

Sponsor a Lights On!
Event on or around
October 14.

Host a special event,
performance, and/or
community wide events
highlighting your needs
and successes.



A National Event

Breakfast on Capital Hill in
Washington, DC in mid May.

Brings together people from all over
the country to learn about strategies
to increase resources and support
for afterschool.

Last year President Bush
proposed a \$400 million cut in
the current 21st Century
funding.

Because of public outcry,
members of congress reversed
the president's cut.



If you aren't
champions for
better and more
21st Century
Community
Learning
Centers, who
will be?

The quality and improvement of your program are vital to sustainability.

Build alliances with related initiatives, such as service learning, mentoring and intergenerational tutoring programs.

Afterschool and community learning centers will be working in isolation if their programming isn't using a addressing a broader set of assets.

Constant staff development and training are very important to make programs successful.

Afterschool and community learning centers will be competing over the same limited "pie" of resources if you don't create statewide infrastructures for afterschool.

A statewide afterschool network or alliance can develop a critical mass of support, ideas, people, and organizations.

"When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

- Yogi Berra

Your leadership can take afterschool and summer programs in positive new directions.



We need good policies.

We need full-time afterschool and community learning center coordinators in each school.

We need more employer, parent, county and youth groups, and senior citizen engagement with this effort.

Does this sound like something you can make happen?

Does this include you?

Hopefully you will say yes!

“It isn’t a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled.

But it is a calamity not to dream.”

- Dr. Benjamin Mays