Accelerating Arkansas Students’ Learning & Recovery

AFTERSCHOOL IS A PARTNER

The Need
More than a year after the pandemic, many schools are struggling to connect with students, especially students of color and those living in low-income communities. Afterschool and summer programs stand ready to help kids re-engage in learning, rebuild relationships, and emerge from this crisis strong, resilient, and hopeful.

The Opportunity
The American Rescue Plan provides Arkansas $1.25B to address student learning loss and provide wraparound services that kids need to thrive, both in and out of school.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN IN ARKANSAS

$1.25B to Dept. of Education in March 2021
60 days to disburse funds

$1.13B to school districts must commit funds by September 2023

$225M for learning loss

$125M stays with DOE

$62.6M for learning loss

$12.5M for afterschool

$12.5M for summer activities

Meeting Arkansas’s Demand for Afterschool

86% of Arkansas parents are satisfied with their child’s afterschool program

207,000 Arkansas kids are waiting to enroll

During the pandemic, programs stepped up to:

- Care for kids of working parents, first responders, and essential staff
- Help students and families with remote learning
- Stay connected with kids and teens to provide social and emotional support
- Distribute meals and groceries

As part of the 50-State Afterschool Network, we can:

- Provide evidence-based best practices from the field of expanded learning programs
- Offer considerations for guidance in dispersing funds
- Provide data on Arkansas programs to help with your deliberations
- Share learning and examples from other states

In March 2021, nearly half of programs nationwide reported concerns about closing or laying off staff.