



# Every Student Succeeds Act: Opportunities to Support STEM

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Afterschool Alliance



# Afterschool Alliance

<https://afterschoolalliance.org/>



# AFTERSCHOOL STEM HUB

<https://www.afterschoolstemhub.org/>

# Elementary and Secondary Education Act

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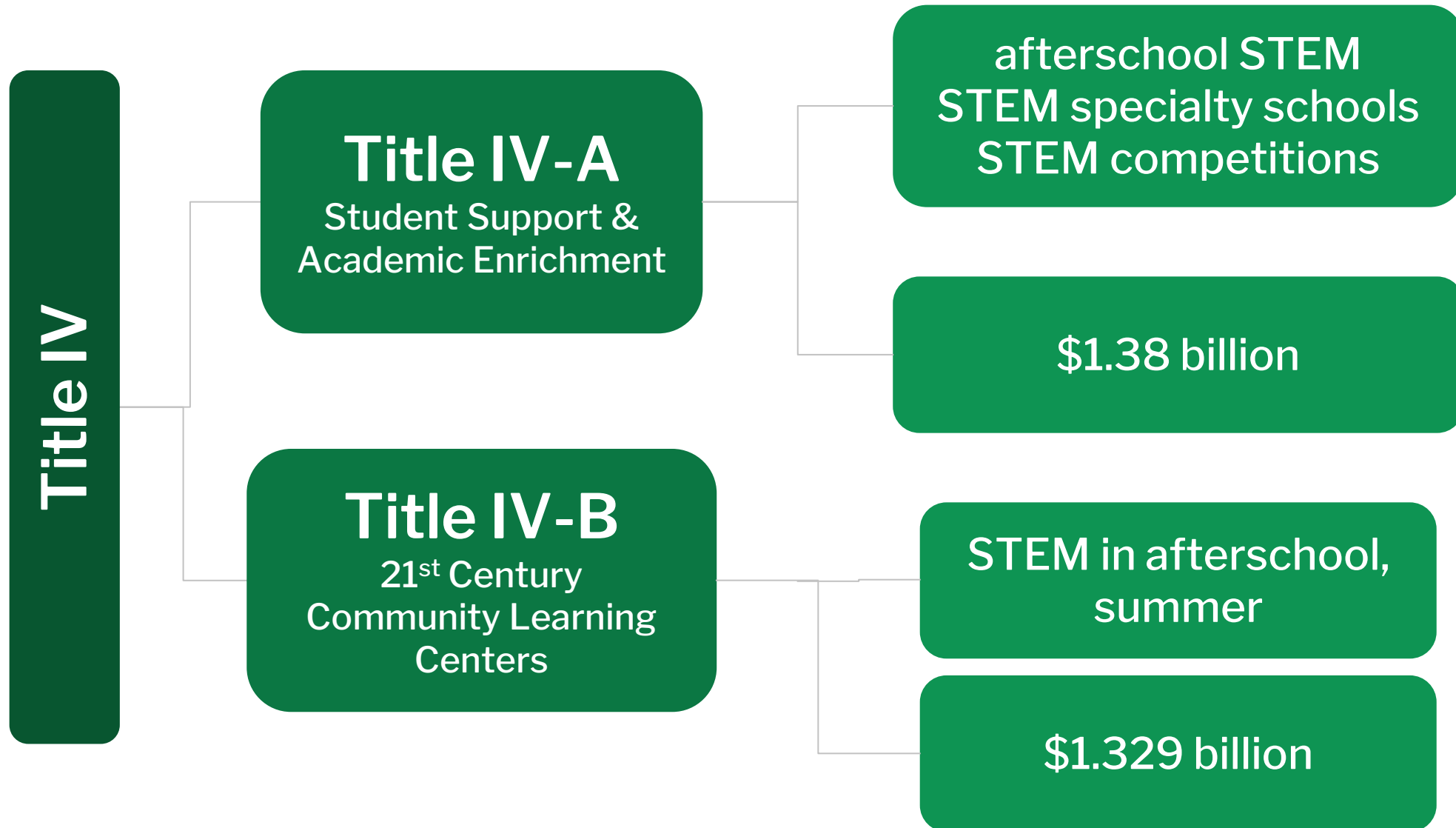
- Signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965
- Focused on low-income, underserved communities through different “titles”
- Last reauthorized in 2015 as the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**



# Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Programs

Title I	Title II	Title III	Title IV
Districts w/ high # low-income families	Teacher professional development	English language learners	21st Century Community Learning Centers + Student Support & Academic Enrichment

# Funding within ESSA Supporting STEM



# Title IV-A: Student Support & Academic Enrichment

1

**Providing students with a well-rounded education.**

College and career counseling, STEM, including computer science, music and arts, civics, IB/AP

2

**Supporting safe and healthy students.**

Comprehensive school mental and behavioral health, drug and violence prevention, training on trauma-informed practices, health and physical education

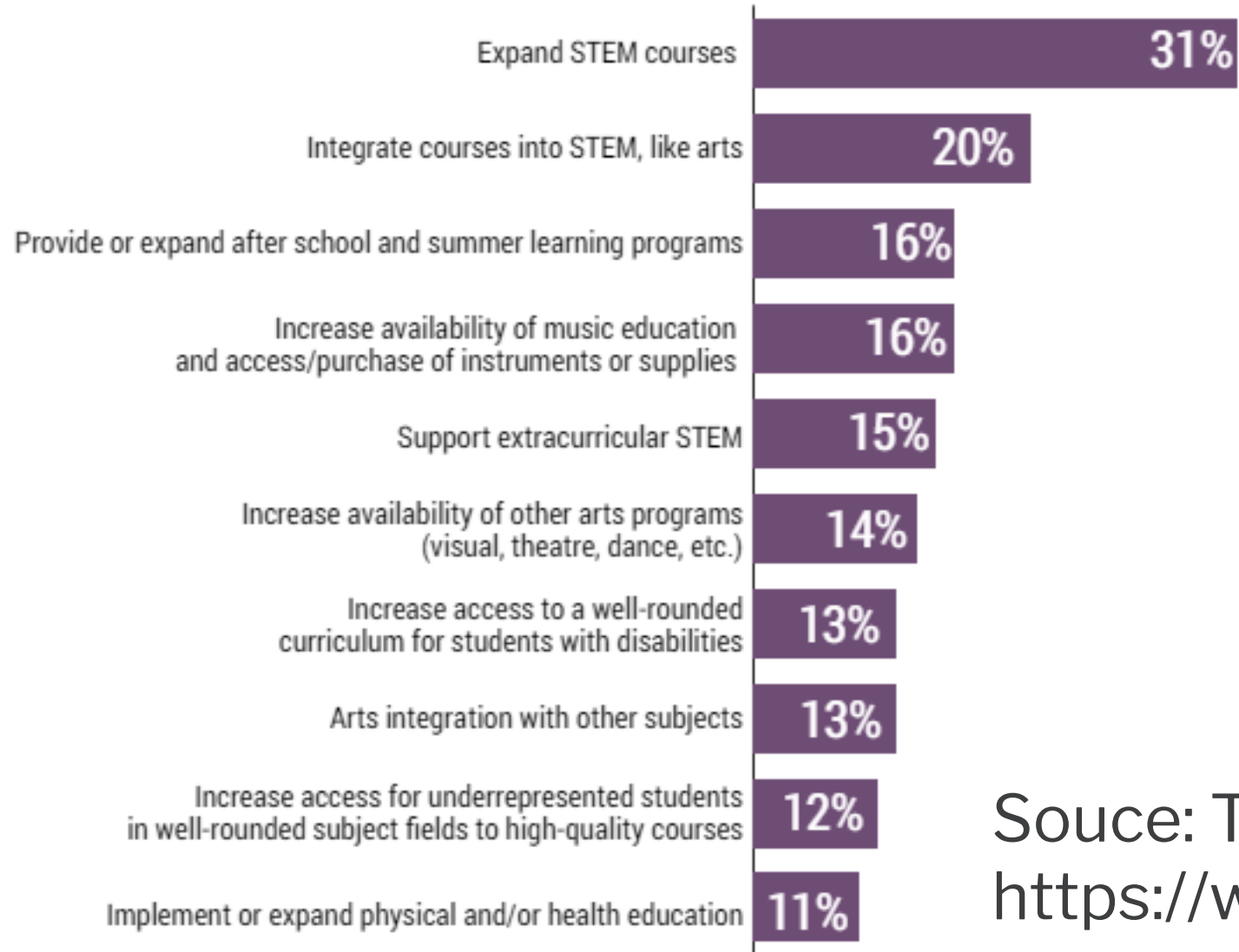
3

**Supporting the effective use of technology.**

Professional development, blended learning, purchase of devices

Source: Title IVA Coalition  
<https://www.titleiva.org/>

## How did you invest your Title IV-A dollars to increase access to a well-rounded curriculum?



Source: Title IVA Coalition  
<https://www.titleiva.org/>

# Title IV-B: 21st Century Community Learning Centers

- Supports community partnerships that support afterschool, before-school, & summer learning, serving low-performing schools
- 3 to 5 year grants
- Flexible funds support various activities:
  - STEM programs
  - youth workforce programs





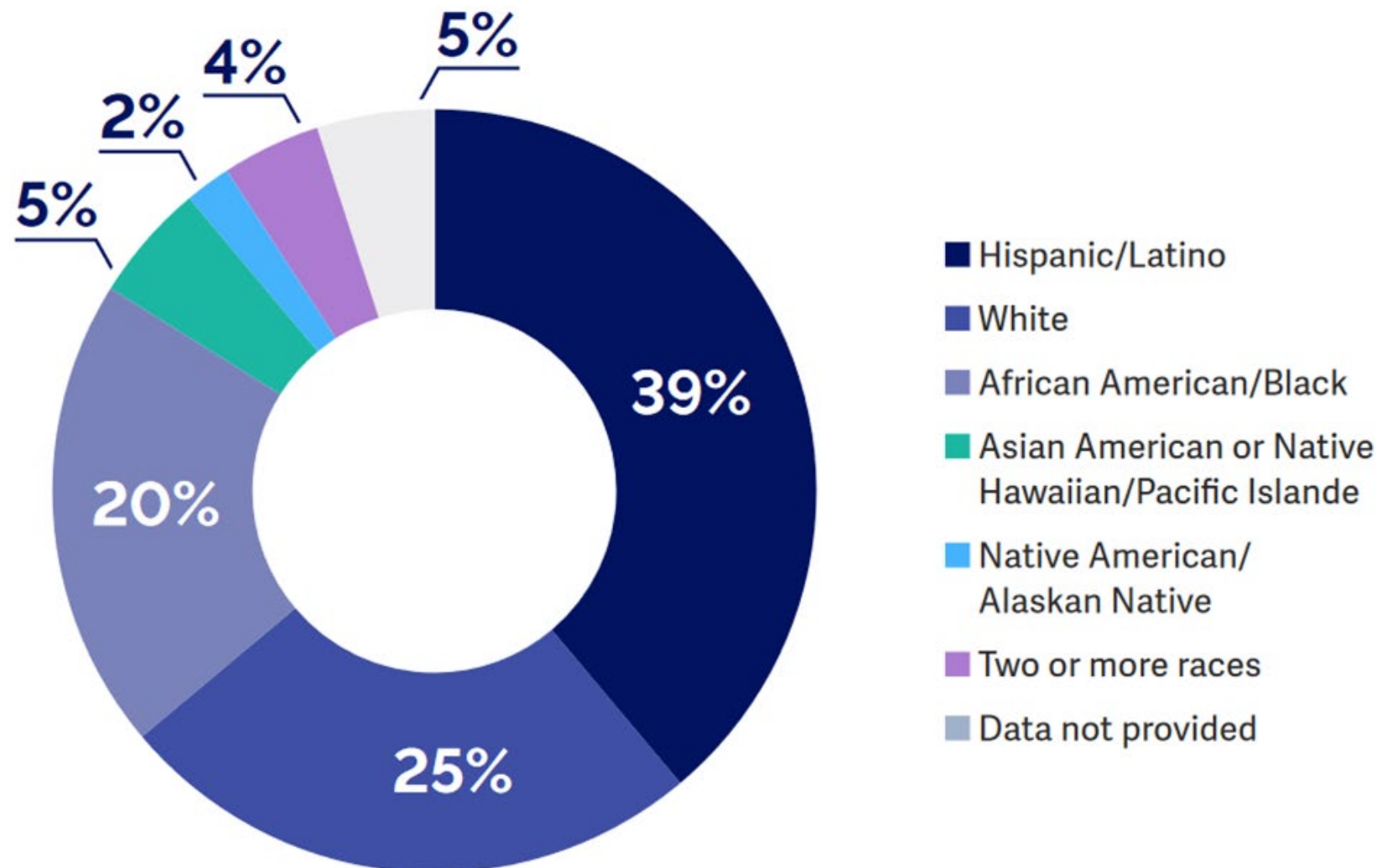
# 21st Century Community Learning Centers: The Big Picture



# 1,382,476

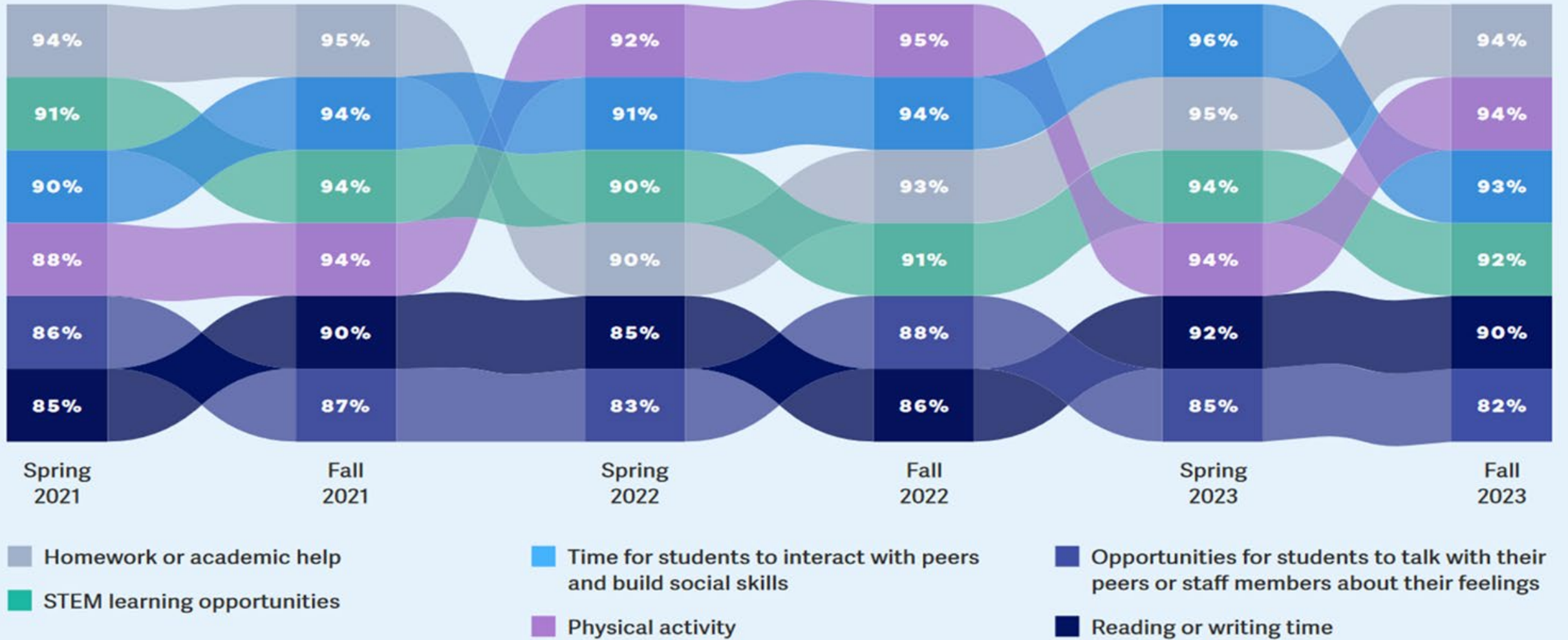
## PRE-K-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHILDREN AND YOUTH ARE IN COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS

**COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS ARE SERVING A DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENTS...**



## A KEY TO RECOVERY<sup>3</sup>

During this time of recovery, Community Learning Centers are providing students critical supports—from accelerating their academic growth to connecting them with caring adults and mentors.

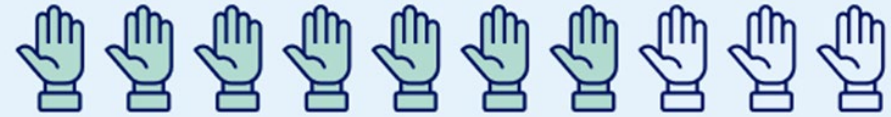






Nationally, **nearly 1 in 2 students** in 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs who had been chronically absent during the previous school year **improved their school day attendance.**

**AMONG STUDENTS ATTENDING A COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER:<sup>4</sup>**



**7 in 10** improved their engagement in learning

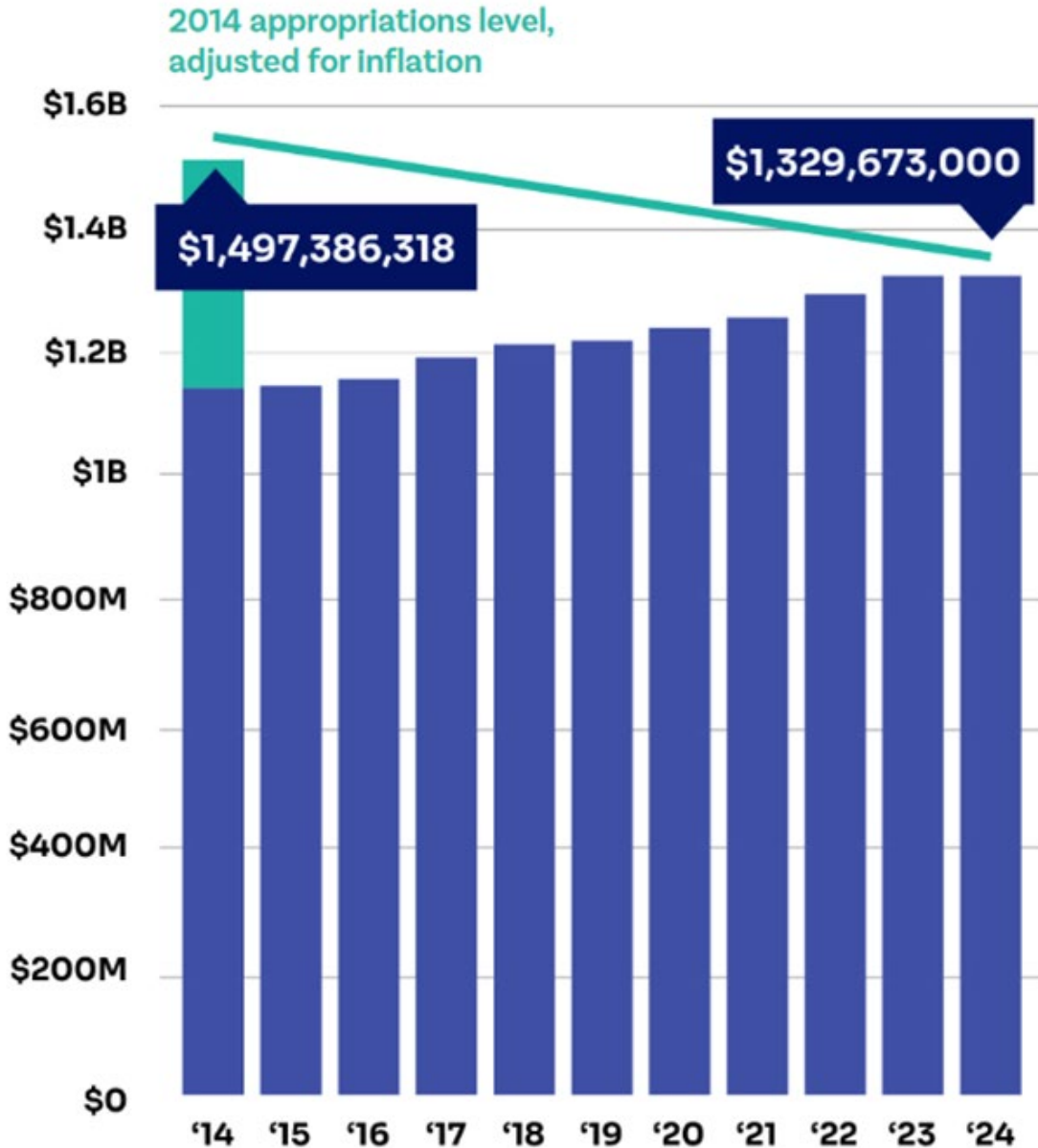


**More than half** who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their GPA



**Approximately 2 in 5** demonstrated growth on their state assessments in reading/language arts or math

## FUNDING FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS



Only **1 in 3 requests** for funding 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs awarded.

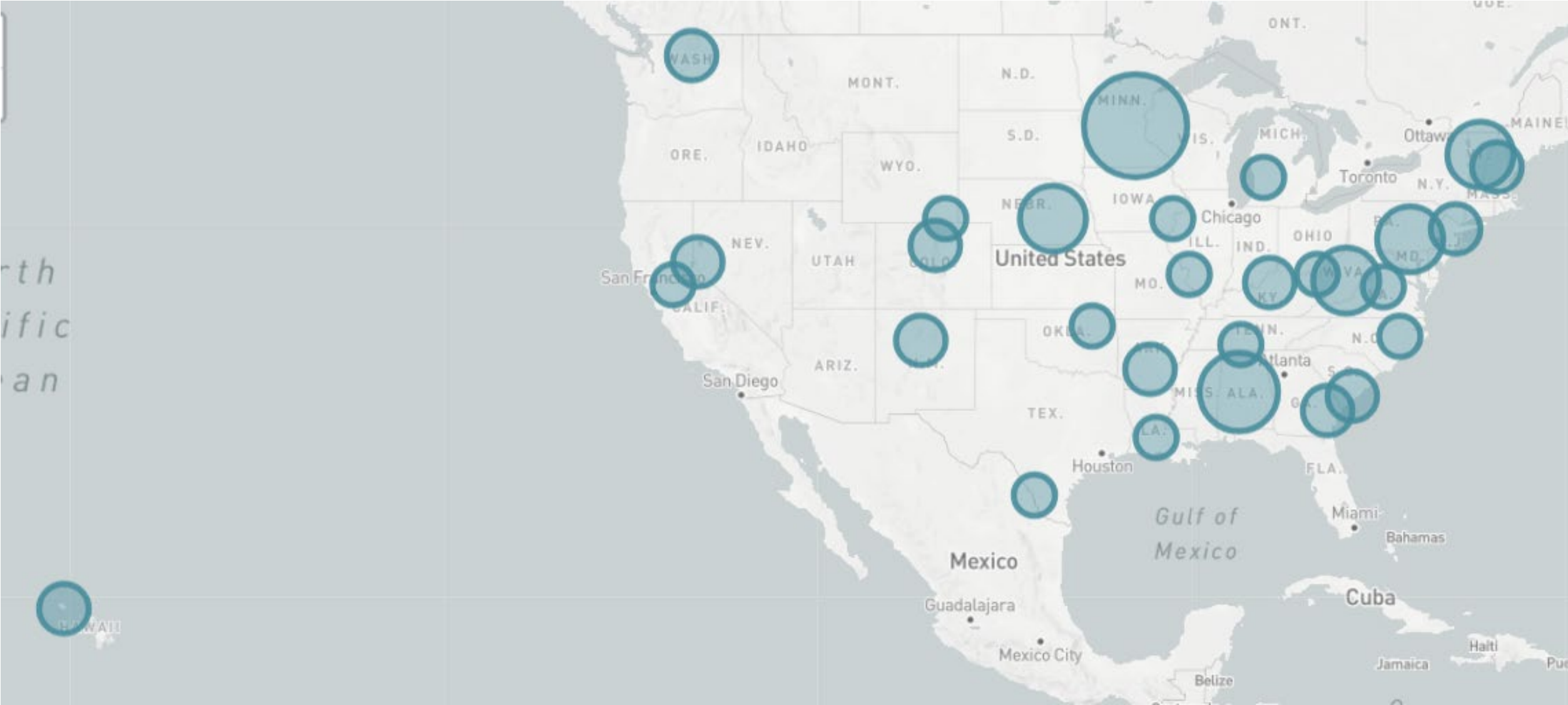
For every **1 student in a program**, there are **3 waiting** to get in.

# American Rescue Plan (ARP)

- Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Act
  - Comprehensive Afterschool
  - Summer Learning or Summer Enrichment
  - Extended Day
  - Extended school year
- Respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs
- 80% of ARP ESSER funds can also be used for afterschool and summer



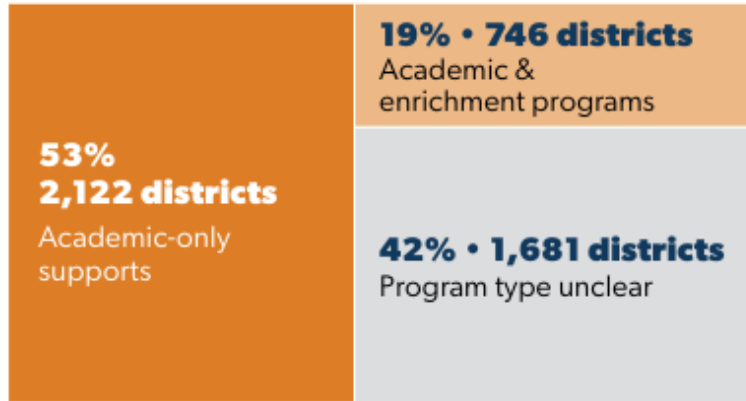
# ARP ESSER Investments in Afterschool and Summer STEM





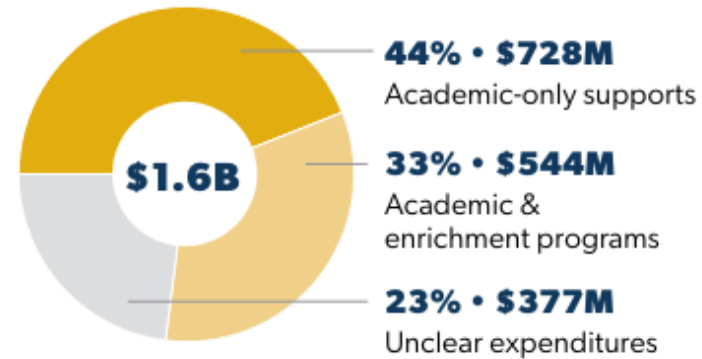
## Afterschool Mentions in District Plans

Among the 3,988 plans that mention afterschool:



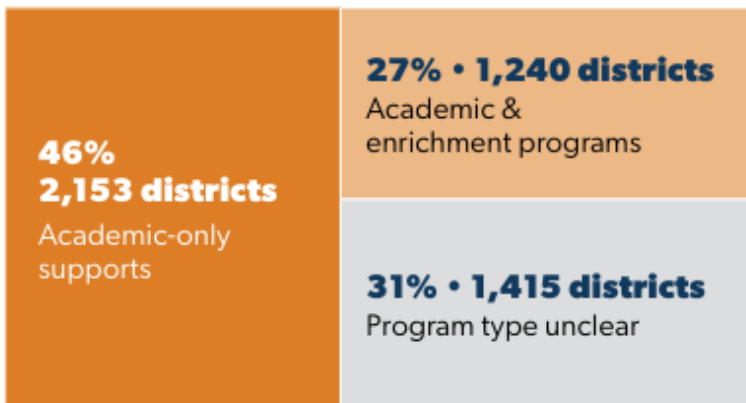
## Afterschool Spending\*\*\*

Among the 4,618 districts with budgetary information



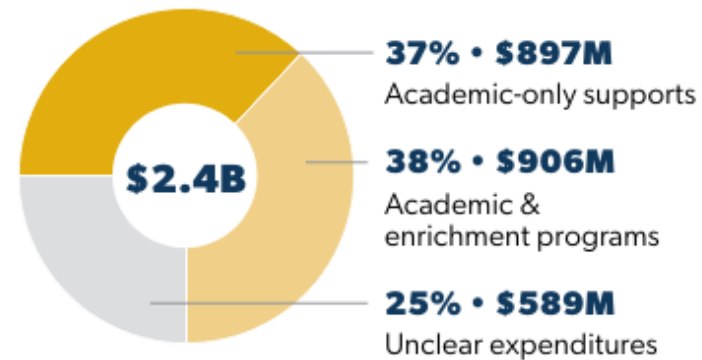
## Summer Mentions in District Plans

Among the 4,632 plans that mention summer:



## Summer Spending\*\*\*

Among the 4,618 districts with budgetary information



\*\* Not included in this total is \$3.5 billion in funding that blended in-school activities with afterschool activities, summer activities, or both, and funds could not be disaggregated.

\*\*\* The pie charts do not include the \$1.3 billion in funding where district plans blended afterschool and summer budgets together. Refer to Figure 2 for the full breakdown of the \$5.4 billion in afterschool and summer funding.



# American Rescue Plan

- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) are also available for communities to address a wide range of issues and can be used to support local youth programs - through 2026.
- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - \$350 billion
  - \$195 billion for states
  - \$65.1 billion counties
  - \$65.1 billion metropolitan cities
    - (Also funds for tribes and territories)

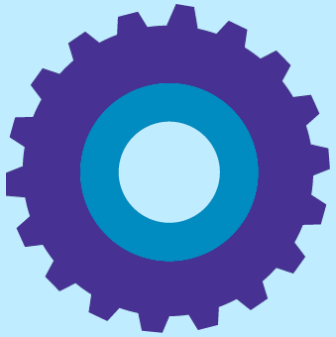
**See your city / county allocation:** <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

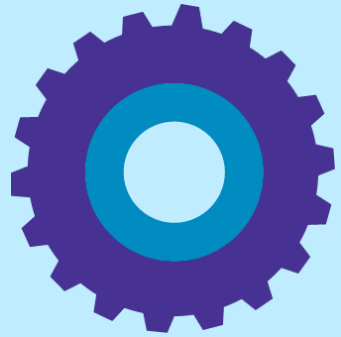


## Athens-Clarke County, GA –

\$300,000 of the county's COVID-relief funding was invested to renovate three Teen Tech Labs.

The labs will provide young people in the community with expanded learning opportunities in areas including **robotics**, creative design, and podcasting.





# What does STEM mean to you?

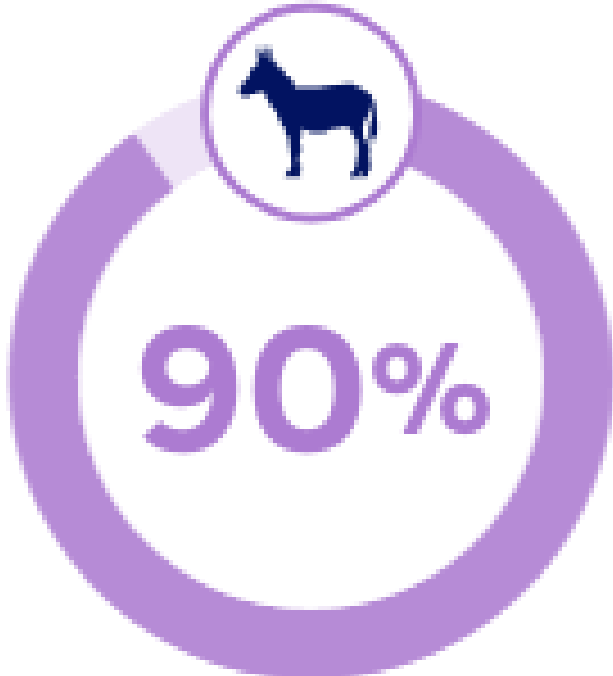
Why do you feel compelled to advocate  
for STEM learning?

# Advocacy in DC

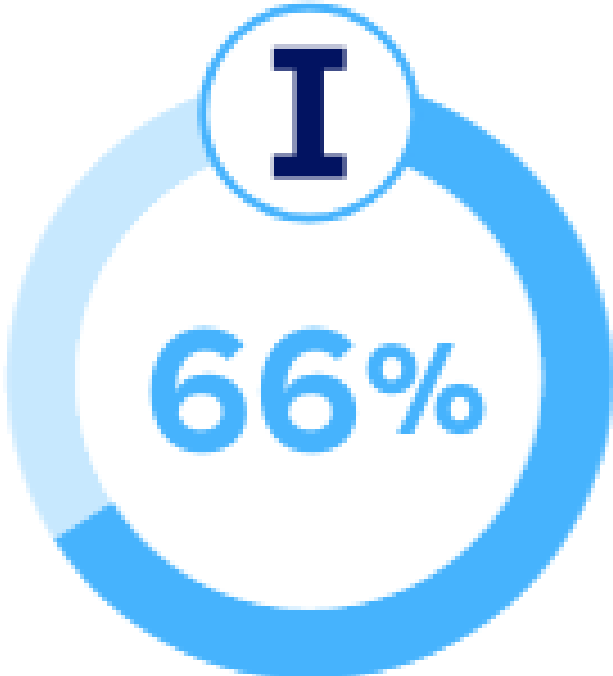
- Topics that Resonate
  - Workforce awareness, career exploration
  - Hands-on experience, “soft” skills
- Background/Investigative Research
- Tell your story
  - What do your experiences mean to you?
  - Paint connections between experiences & your interests, goals
- Keep it simple! Stick to what you know.



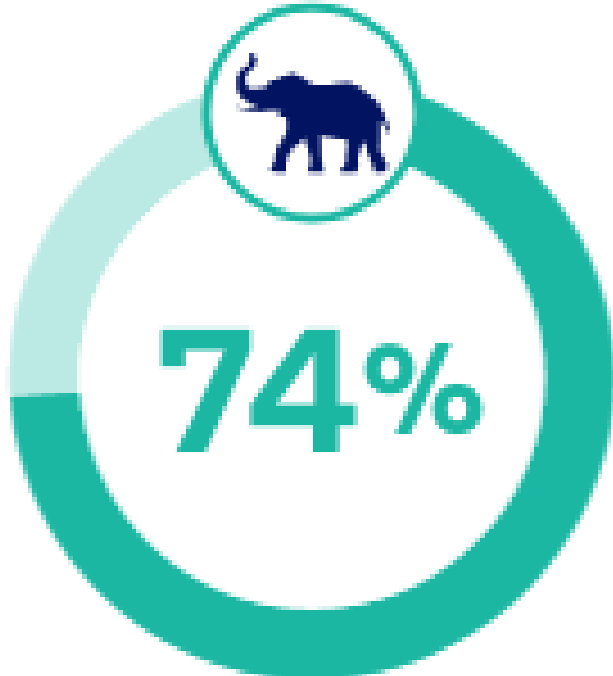
# SUPPORT FOR INCREASED PUBLIC INVESTMENTS IS STRONG AND BIPARTISAN<sup>11</sup>



Democrats



Independents



Republicans

# Support for STEM Learning

**Figure 7:** More parents recognize the value of STEM learning

● 2014 ● 2020

Percentage of parents who agree afterschool programs provide children opportunities to gain interest and skills related to STEM



Percentage of parents reporting that STEM and computer science were important in selecting their afterschool program



## SPARKING INTEREST, INSPIRING CAREERS

An analysis of 160 afterschool STEM programs across 11 states found that among the nearly 1,600 participating students:<sup>10</sup>

**80%** made positive gains in science career knowledge

**78%** increased interest in STEM

**73%** increased their “science identity” — a personal belief that one can succeed at science



Allen, P., Noam, G., Little, T., Fukuda, E., Chang, R., Gorrall, B., Waggenpack, L. (2016). Afterschool & STEM: System-building evaluation. The PEAR Institute

# Taking it Home

Don't stop here, take the advocacy back home with you!

- Opportunities to advocate for funding with your school district:
  - Title IV, Part A / Student Support and Academic Enrichment
  - 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants
  - American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER funds
- Invite your elected officials out to visit
  - Build long-term relationships with legislators - federal, state, and local.





# Additional Opportunities

## Afterschool Alliance Youth Ambassadors!

Learn more:

<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/youth-voices.cfm>

## CYESS Youth Consultants

Learn more:

<https://cyess.org/projects/>

## Lights on Afterschool!

Learn more:

<https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>



# Questions?



Afterschool STEM Hub  
website



LinkedIn



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Thank You!