

The Case for **AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS** in Richmond, Virginia



Photos courtesy of
NextUp RVA

WHY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS MATTER

Research shows that high-quality afterschool programs can reinforce school learning objectives and provide children with essential enrichment experiences they may not otherwise have, leading to:

- Positive effects on school attendance and behavior
- Improved performance in Math and English
- Positive personal and social well-being
- Reduction in juvenile crime and recidivism

Source: Rose Institute of Claremont McKenna College

By 6th grade, middle-class students have spent



6,000
MORE HOURS

learning outside of school than their peers living in poverty.

Source: ExpandedEDSchools

ACCESS TO PROGRAMS



Only 15% of elementary and middle school students at Richmond Public Schools (RPS) had access to a full-service afterschool program during the 2017-18 school year, according to a recent survey.

Cost, barriers to transportation, and lack of program availability kept Richmond youth away from educational opportunities that could have helped close the learning gap.

RICHMOND'S VISION FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

We envision a **coordinated, citywide system of high-quality afterschool programs** that will enhance student well-being, expand enrichment opportunities, increase readiness for learning, and support working families.

Youth organizations and community philanthropic partners, including Altria, the Community Foundation, and Robins Foundation, are working with the Mayor's Office and RPS to bolster afterschool program offerings for students.

Goal: All RPS elementary and middle school students will have access to high-quality afterschool programs by 2020.



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM PARTNERS

Peter Paul Development Center
Higher Achievement
YMCA of Greater Richmond

NextUp RVA
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond
Parks and Recreation, City of Richmond

THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Research shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:

- Increasing kids' learning potential
- Improving kids' performance at school
- Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency

By adding over 1,500 slots to free afterschool programs in the next two years and locating each program at the school site or nearby with designated transportation, we remove major service barriers that keep RPS students from accessing what they need to thrive.



Source: Rose Institute of
Claremont McKenna College

THE FUND FOR QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS



Efforts have already increased RPS student access to afterschool programs to 23% for the 2018-19 school year. Dedicated organizations have invested multiple millions of dollars and increased funding for this initiative by 33% for 2019.

However, these groups cannot do this work alone. To support this coordinated, high-quality program expansion, the Community Foundation has established the **Fund for Quality Afterschool Programs**. Overseen by a volunteer Advisory Committee of donors and community members, this fund supports nonprofit partners in their strategic work to build and sustain quality afterschool programs for children and youth in the City of Richmond.

Contributions help build a strong and inclusive afterschool system for our students now and in the future.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!

To learn more about this community need and how you can help, contact Scott Blackwell at 804-330-7400 or sblackwell@cfrichmond.org.

