

# Benefits That Afterschool Participation Provides A Community

At risk youth benefit the most from afterschool programming. Studies show that at risk youth show improvements in social and emotional factors, as well as academic achievement (The National Institute on Out-of-School Time, 2008).

Adolescents who participate in afterschool activities are less likely to engage in experimentation with drugs, alcohol and cigarettes. They are also less likely to engage in sexual activity, and are three times less likely to skip class (Afterschool Alliance, 2008).

Students who spend 5-9 hours in afterschool activities per week are six times more likely to enter their senior year in high school than their peers, and one-third less likely to be suspended in their sophomore or senior years of high school (Afterschool Alliance, 2008).

Youth programs reduce crime by providing supervision during the hours of 3 pm to 6 pm, the peak hours for adolescent crime. These are also the peak hours for risk behaviors and experimentation (Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence).

Cost benefits analyses show that for every \$1 invested in afterschool programs taxpayers can reap a savings of \$8 to \$12 (Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence).

The resources gained from afterschool activities such as strong relationships with adults, better work habits, feelings of self worth and the development of strong academic goals improve involvement in learning (American Youth Policy Forum, 2006).

Afterschool programs provide youth with competency in problem solving, communication, teamwork, technology, literacy and math skills (American Youth Policy Forum, 2006).

Participation in afterschool activities is associated with better grades, less truancy, greater enjoyment of school and more effort at school (Anderson-Butcher, D., Newsome, W.S., Ferrari, T.M., 2003).

