

## Afterschool Is a Game Changer

# Strengthening Our Future Workforce

Afterschool and summer learning is a smart investment in Michigan's economy and future generations. Programs engage young people in enriching learning experiences, give them opportunities to explore careers, expose them to growing industries, and help them realize their full potential.



## The Challenge

Michigan is experiencing significant [population decline](#), which is contributing to a weaker economy and workforce. We must build a lifelong learning system that enables every student to succeed and thrive in the 21st Century knowledge-based economy to meet the jobs of tomorrow here in Michigan.

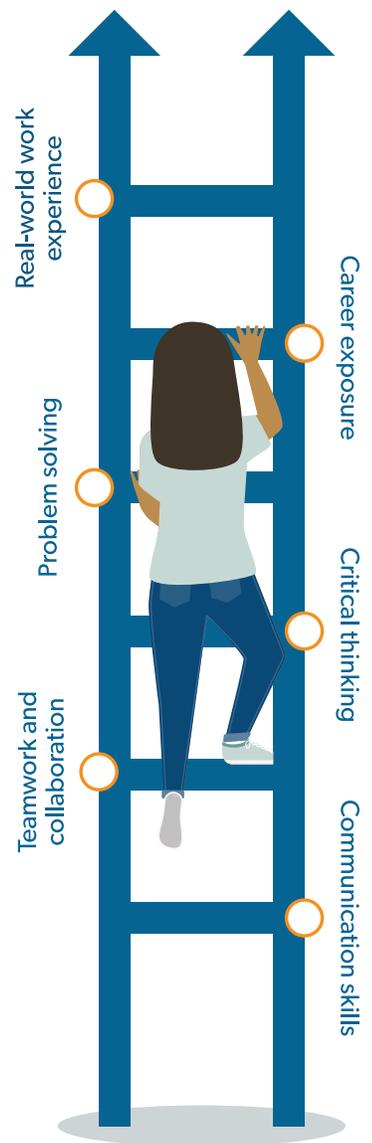
- Michigan ranks 49th in the nation for population growth
- Michigan experiences an annual net loss of approximately 5,600 postgraduates
- Less than one-third of Michigan fourth graders and eighth graders are proficient in reading or math

## Afterschool Is a Solution

Programs help youth build foundational skills—such as teamwork, communication, and critical thinking. They provide opportunities for young people of all backgrounds to connect with local employers and gain real-world work experience through internships, apprenticeships, and volunteer activities while introducing them to new interests and potential career pathways.

In [Michigan](#):

- **84%** of parents agree that programs provide kids opportunities to learn life skills, like the ability to communicate and work in teams
- **77%** agree afterschool helps children gain interest and skills in STEM—the subjects known as science, technology, engineering, and math



Afterschool and summer learning programs provide scaled opportunities for students to gain foundational skills that employers desire in their future hires.



## The Gap Between Work and School Time

Michigan youth spend about **32 hours** a week in school, and their parents work an average of **42 hours** a week. Afterschool programs close the child care gap by providing a safe place for youth to go when schools let out and parents are still working. Working parents need reliable, affordable options for their school-age kids so they can have peace of mind and be productive on the job.



## Michigan businesses need a talented workforce with skills in STEM

Today's students are our future leaders, and we need to ensure they have the skills required to tackle the problems of tomorrow. Investing in afterschool will help our kids prepare for future jobs and connect them with opportunities that will encourage them to stay in Michigan and build a prosperous economy for all of us.

### Afterschool programs can help!

- Afterschool STEM programs engage students in hands-on experiences and real-world projects that give them extra time to question, tinker, learn, and explore STEM topics.
- Afterschool STEM programs boost students' proficiency in math and science, increase their likelihood of graduation, and put them on the path to pursuing a career in the STEM fields.

## Afterschool STEM in Michigan

Quality afterschool STEM programs across Michigan are helping young people gain STEM skills and inspire future careers in growing industries. Among [Michigan students](#) who participated in an afterschool STEM program:

- **86%** made positive gains in science career knowledge
- **79%** gained interest in science careers
- **78%** increased interest in science
- **77%** increased in "science identity"—a personal belief that he/she can succeed at science
- **73%** increased perseverance and critical thinking skills



“These programs have given me the opportunity to express my passion for creating and inventing. I want to become a biomedical engineer because I like the science and technology behind the medical field.”

DAKOTA, AGE 14, Girls in Engineering & Million Girls Moonshot, Pontiac

## Michigan Needs More Afterschool!

There is no more important time to strengthen supports for Michigan families. But more than [750,000](#) children are missing out on life-changing afterschool opportunities because our state has never had enough programs for all the families who want and need them.

Afterschool and summer learning programs are an essential partner in Michigan's education system, and we need a sustainable funding solution to ensure that every child who wants to participate has the opportunity.

**Afterschool provides a solid return on investment. Research shows that every \$1 invested in afterschool programs saves at least \$3 by:**



- 1 Increasing kids' earning potential
- 2 Improving kids' performance at school
- 3 Reducing crime and juvenile delinquency



### Contact Us

Erin Skene-Pratt  
Executive Director  
✉ [admin@miafterschool.org](mailto:admin@miafterschool.org)

🌐 [miafterschool.org](http://miafterschool.org)  
✕ @MIAfterschool  
f @MIAfterSchoolPartnership  
@miafterschoolpartnership