



Why Expanding New Jersey After 3 Makes Sense to Taxpayers

Children & families need more support and voters value afterschool programs

- Only 12% of New Jersey children have access to afterschool programs.
- Nearly one quarter of these children are left unsupervised each day afterschool.
- 9 out of 10 New Jersey residents believe that access to safe, structured and affordable afterschool programs is important. According to a February 2009 poll by the Monmouth University Polling Institute, 9 in 10 New Jersey residents believe that access to afterschool programs is important with over two-thirds (67%) stating they believed afterschool programs were “very important”.

Studies show that afterschool programs help kids achieve in school and reduce the high school dropout rate

- A three-year, independent evaluation of New Jersey After 3 conducted by Policy Studies Associates revealed that student participants improved in several areas including: reading and writing; math; homework completion; and computer skills.
- This study follows a growing body of evidence that shows high quality afterschool programs like New Jersey After 3 produce significant gains in student test scores, reduce juvenile at-risk behavior and reduces the high school drop out rate.

New Jersey After 3 costs less and delivers more than other high-quality programs throughout the nation

- New Jersey After 3 programs are offered 5-days a week from 3pm to 6pm each day school is in session.
- On a per-pupil, per-day basis, New Jersey After 3 spends roughly one-third of the average per-pupil, per-day cost of other high-quality programs around the country and state (\$8/day vs. \$22/day).
- New Jersey After 3's annual per-pupil cost has dropped each of the last four years and its administrative costs are just over 5%.

New Jersey After 3 is a smart investment of taxpayer dollars

- New Jersey After 3 and its network of partners have leveraged over \$27 million in additional support to New Jersey After 3 programs, a rate of return of over 40% against the state's investment.
- Research proves that high quality afterschool programs like New Jersey After 3 deliver \$3 dollars in public benefit for every \$1 dollar invested.
- Studies have found that for every at-risk child steered clear of the juvenile justice system the taxpayers save between \$1.7 million and \$2.3 million dollars per child.
- New Jersey After 3 is well positioned to bring millions of federal dollars to New Jersey in coming years through the emergence of funds committed to expanding learning time, National Service and other programs which improve student achievement and high school graduation rates.

New Jersey After 3 is a valuable asset that provides four critical services to the community, it's program network:

- *Keeps Kids Safe* during the hours of 3pm to 6pm, the most dangerous hours for children;
- *Expands Learning Time*, providing kids with academic support, tutoring, and homework help;
- *Promotes Positive Youth Development* by keeping kids physically active, exposing kids to the arts, and engaged in their community through service learning;
- *Supports Working Families* by providing parents and guardians with the support they need to work fulltime by offering a safe, structured and supportive environment for their children to learn after the traditional school day ends.