21st Century Community Learning Centers

FACT SHEET

SEPTEMBER 2021



Examples of what youth did at these programs:

- Tutoring
- Fitness and nutrition
- Cooking Matters
- STEAM
- Engineering club
- History club
- Writing a spooky story
- Family night
- NBA math hoops

Schools and Communities Can Work Together to Provide Exceptional Out-of-School Time Experiences for Youth and Families

During the 2020-21 program year, about 200 21st Century Community Learning Centers out-of-school time programs remained open, serving 14,000 youth and families with in-person or online programming despite the pandemic. Among them, **one in every five programs** was managed by schools but operated by community-based organizations*. These programs were located in the Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Kalamazoo areas, serving 2,200 primarily Black (39%) and Hispanic (40%) lowincome youth and families.

*CBO includes faith-based organizations, YMCAs, municipal Parks and Recreation, etc.

Survey results from 164 family members and 140 youth participants showed that...

80% families believed programs could provide the support and interaction needed for their child

71% families asked for academic help and learning opportunities to benefit their child

76% youth appreciated programs connecting them with an adult who could help

73% youth thought the LIVE virtual sessions were very helpful to them





University Outreach and Engagement

"The program went above & beyond during the pandemic. The virtual trips were amazing & the evening activities like cooking were so much fun."

"It is comforting to know she is in a safe, fun, and educational environment."

"My son has socialemotional issues, boundary issues, and feels hopeless at times; this program addressed his needs."

"This program helps our kids stay out of trouble or just sitting in front of the tv after school."

" It is nice for my daughter to get extra help with school work and participate in activities. We don't use the program for childcare. She really enjoys it and chooses on her own to participate."

"Thank you for the patience that all the very kind teachers give the children."

What would youth miss if they didn't have this program?

feeling comfortable around everyone

learning new things cooking projects

science projects everything

having fun academic help talking to people

being outside

learning how to use my emotions zoom S experiments

clubs making new friends games basketball support getting a break from school food fun activities sense of belonging box from the mail playing sports fun learning something I look forward to everyday

homework help hanging out

Recommended citation: Wu, J. H. & Van Egeren, L. A. (2021). Schools and communities can work together to provide exceptional out-of-school time experiences for youth and families. Michigan 21st Century Community Learning Centers State Evaluation fact sheet. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University.