

# Leveraging Expanded Learning Opportunities in Vermont to Increase Flexibility, Personalization, Proficiency, and Create New Possibilities for Addressing the Achievement Gap



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**Favorite websites: [expandinglearning.org](http://expandinglearning.org); [afterschoolalliance.org](http://afterschoolalliance.org); [summerlearning.org](http://summerlearning.org)**

## New and Continuing Challenges Facing Vermont

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- **Almost 26,000 students in Vermont come from low-income homes/neighborhoods, and there is increasing evidence that they will need not only a better school day, but more and better afterschool and summer opportunities---they are out of school 75-80% of time**
- **Better education increasingly is the only pathway to be self-sufficient or achieve a middle-income**
- **Of all job openings by 2020 (from new openings and from regular turnover), most jobs (65%) will require some career training beyond high school or a 2 or 4 college degree or more. More high school graduates will need a stronger foundation to be college and career ready.**

## Afterschool programs create new and different pathways of opportunity along the learning spectrum

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- Internships
- Credit-based Learning
- Dual Enrollment
- STEM/STEAM Enrichment
- Project-based Learning
- Blended Learning
- Service Learning
- Anytime, Anywhere Learning
- Summer Jobs/ Work Experience
- Leadership Experience
- Community Partnerships

All of these spaces open up new opportunities for young people to use real-world learning in afterschool and summers to stay on track and be motivated for student success and attainment.

**There is growing evidence of interest and demand for afterschool programs from families...**



## 2014 *America After 3PM* Data Proves – Programs are in Demand

More youth than ever before—

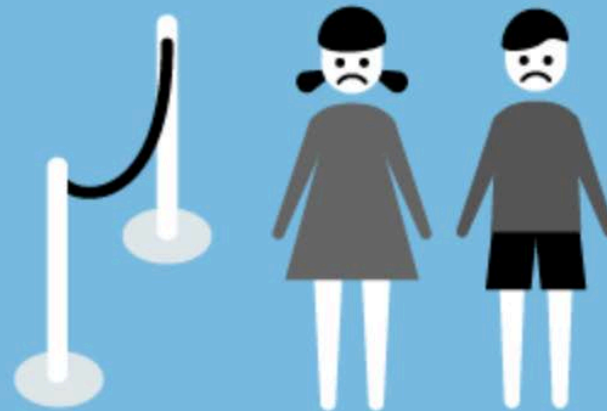
# 10.2 million

—are in afterschool programs.

For every child  
in a program,



2 are waiting to get in.



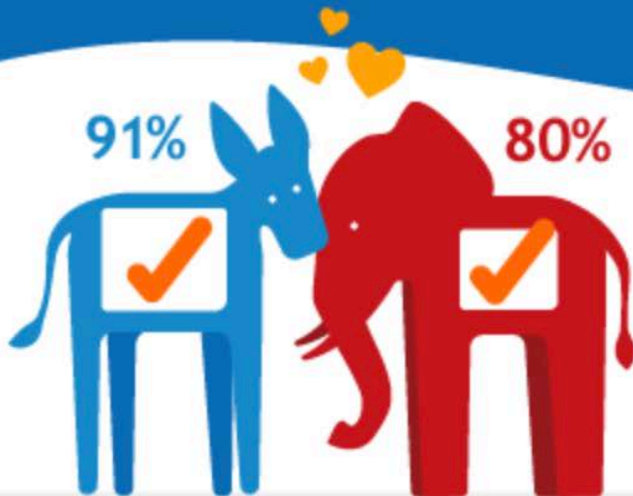


## 2014 *America After 3PM* Data Proves – Support for Afterschool Programs is Strong

More than

# 8 in 10

parents with kids in afterschool programs agree that the programs help working parents keep their jobs.

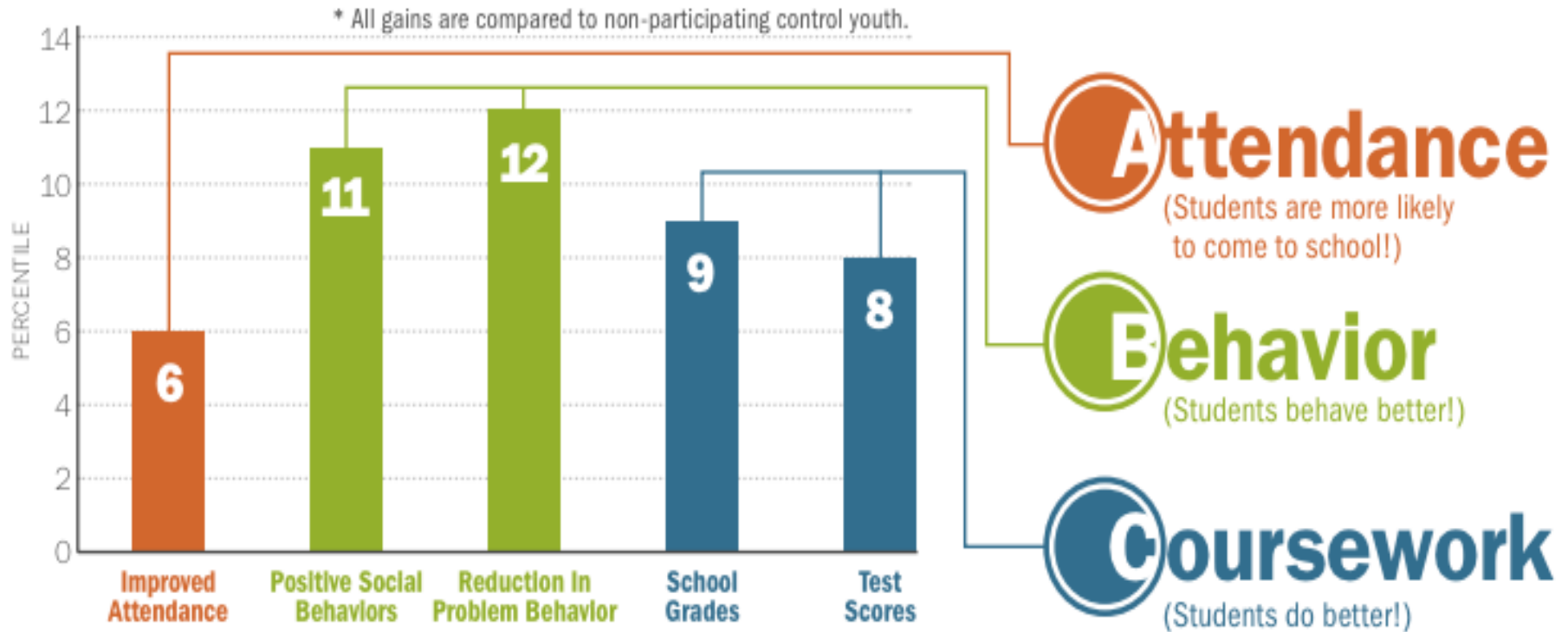


# 84%

of parents support public funding of these programs.

**There is growing evidence that quality programs can result in improvements linked to student success in and outside school...**

# High quality afterschool programs are proven to accelerate student achievement and development

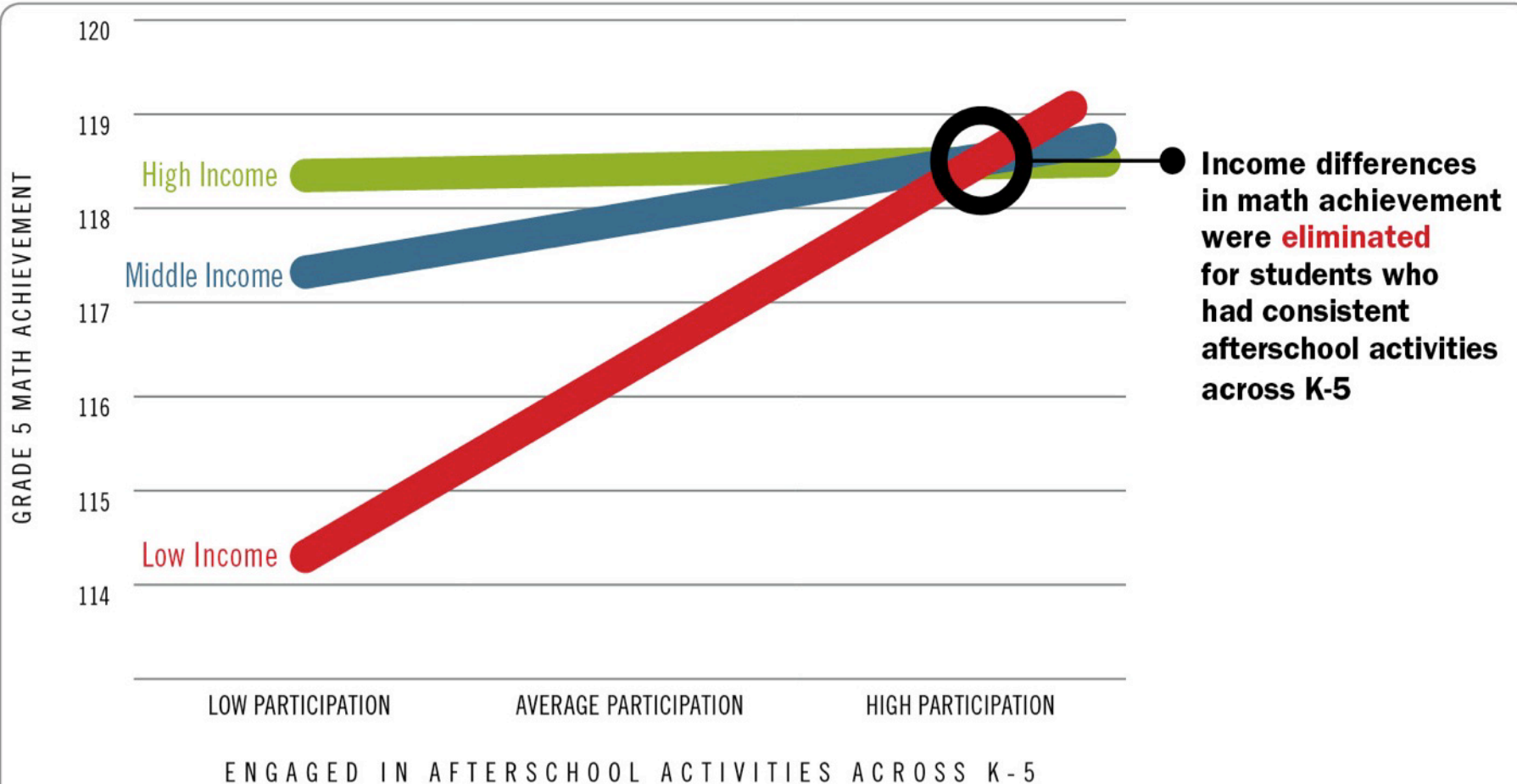


Durlak & Weissberg, Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning;  
*Expanding Minds*, p. 196

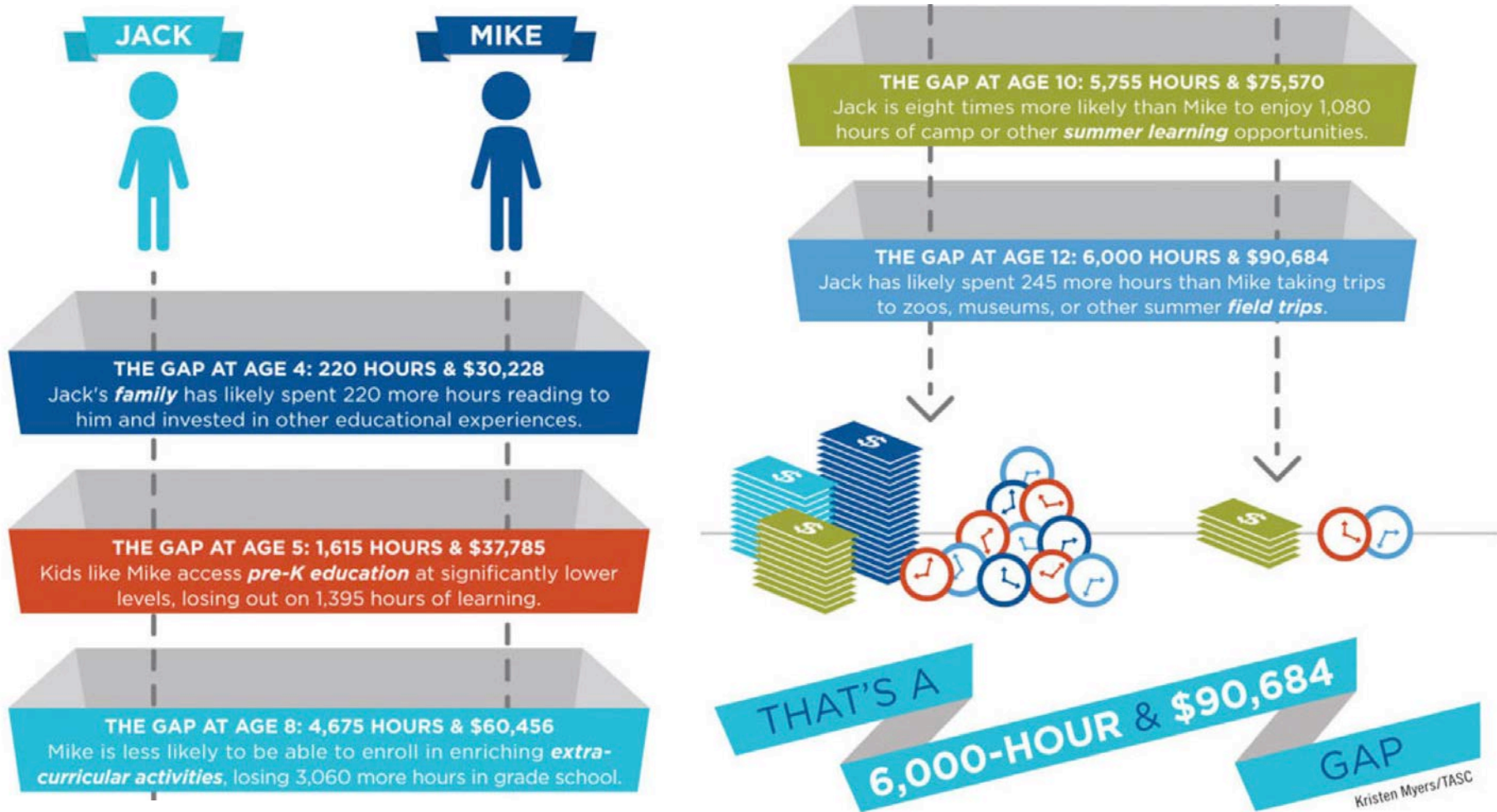


**There is growing evidence that students who participate in multiple years in quality programs start closing the achievement gap...**

## More time spent in afterschool activities during the elementary school years is linked to narrowing the gap in math achievement at grade 5.



# But the availability of affordable programs is causing an opportunity gap



THAT'S A

6,000-HOUR & \$90,684

GAP

Kristen Myers/TASC

## Expanded Learning Opportunities support Vermont's vision for education that is flexible, personalized, proficiency-based, and equalizes opportunities.

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➤ **This is why H.391 is so important.**

Student Opportunity

Flexible Pathways to Graduation

Vermont's Education Quality Standards

Personalized Learning Plans

Universal PreK

Proficiency-Based Graduation Requirements

Transferable Skills:  
Communication  
Collaboration  
Creativity  
Innovation  
Inquiry  
Problem Solving  
Use of Technology

## Expanded Learning Opportunities are a smart investment and that investment is needed now.

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Return on Investment Studies point towards savings ranging from \$2.18 to \$9.00 for every dollar invested.

In recent years in Vermont, MILLIONS of DOLLARS worth of applications for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs were not funded just in the past three years in Vermont.

More than 22,000 children and youth in Vermont not currently enrolled in afterschool programs would likely participate if more programs were available and accessible. In summer, the level of unmet demand grows to over 30,000 children and youth.

***“Does this mean that afterschool and summer learning are the silver bullet for what ails our educational system?”***

***Of course not, but I am increasingly convinced that they may, in fact, be a silver lining... an opportunity... a piece of the education reform puzzle.”***

-William S. White, President, CS Mott Foundation,  
at the release of *Engaging Minds and Opportunities*,  
National Press Club, Washington, DC, 2013.

