Youth Rights, Opportunity Gaps, and Growing Adults in VT

PRESENTATION TO THE VERMONT CHILD POVERTY COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 16, 2017

HOLLY MOREHOUSE

VERMONT AFTERSCHOOL, INC

HOLLYMOREHOUSE@VERMONTAFTERSCHOOL.ORG

YOUTH RIGHTS SUMMIT- OCTOBER 20th in RANDOLPH

Ages 9-26 and broad mix of demographics, geographic spread, and life experiences.

Full day event; Crafted to put youth voice front and center

Youth determined the rights, the categories, and the wording

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Chelsea

Tessa

Girls
RUN T
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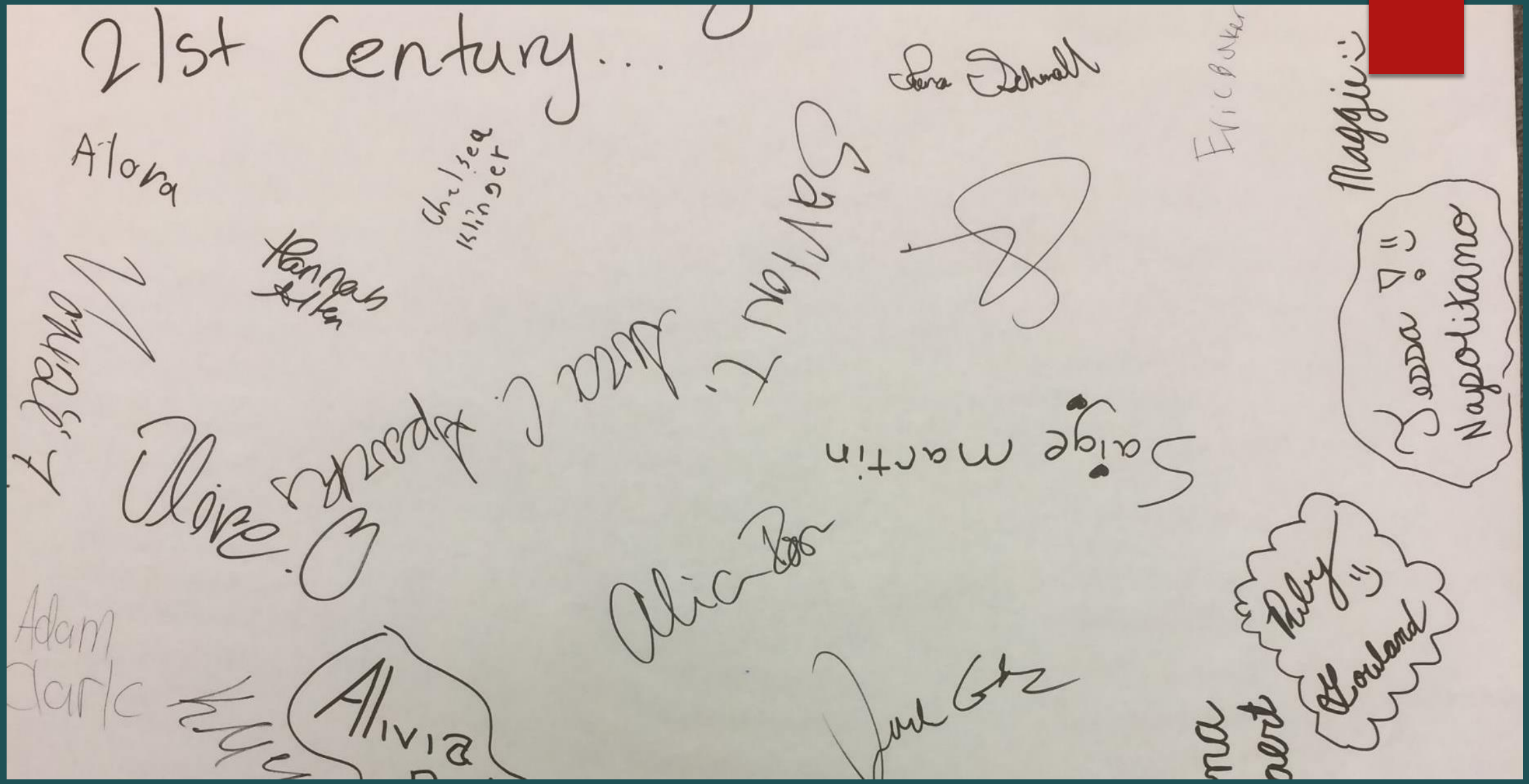
NORDIC SOCCER


21st Century...
Alora
Chelsea Klinger
Hannah Allen
Olivia
Adam Clark
Alivia
Alice
Sophie Martin
Maggie
Napolitano
Riley Cleveland

Question that framed the day:

What do you, as a young person in Vermont, need in order to be the best version of yourself?

The result:

A vision of what Vermont could look like for our young people if there were no childhood poverty

Five key themes:

- Safety
- Connections
- Identity
- Voice
- Opportunity

October 20, 2017

Vermont Youth Declaration of Rights

Social Supports and Connections

Vermont Youth have the right to:

- Express themselves through feelings, speech, clothing, actions, creativity, and more.
- Have support and education from friends, family, and community.
- Have access to healthy food and water.
- Connect to each other through technology and transportation.
- Be respected and heard.
- Be engaged in community.
- A respected voice in making decisions that affect how they live.

Mental Health

Vermont Youth have the right to:

- Have access to affordable mental health care.
- A personal break to handle their mental situation.
- Choose their own identity, whether that be sexual orientation, religious identification, and/or gender identification.
- Have people in society who support their mental well-being.

Hobbies/ Entertainment

Vermont Youth have a right to:

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- Live with and be supported by caring adults.
- Provide input to the state when rules and regulations are developed that affect youth.

Work/Transportation

Vermont Youth have the right to:

- Choose a safe and healthy job, while making a fair wage.
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Home/Shelter

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- To be protected from abuse of all kinds.

Natural Environment

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- Education on anything concerning self-defense

Holly Morehouse | Vermont Afterschool, Inc. | Hollymorehouse@vermontafterschool.org

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VOICE

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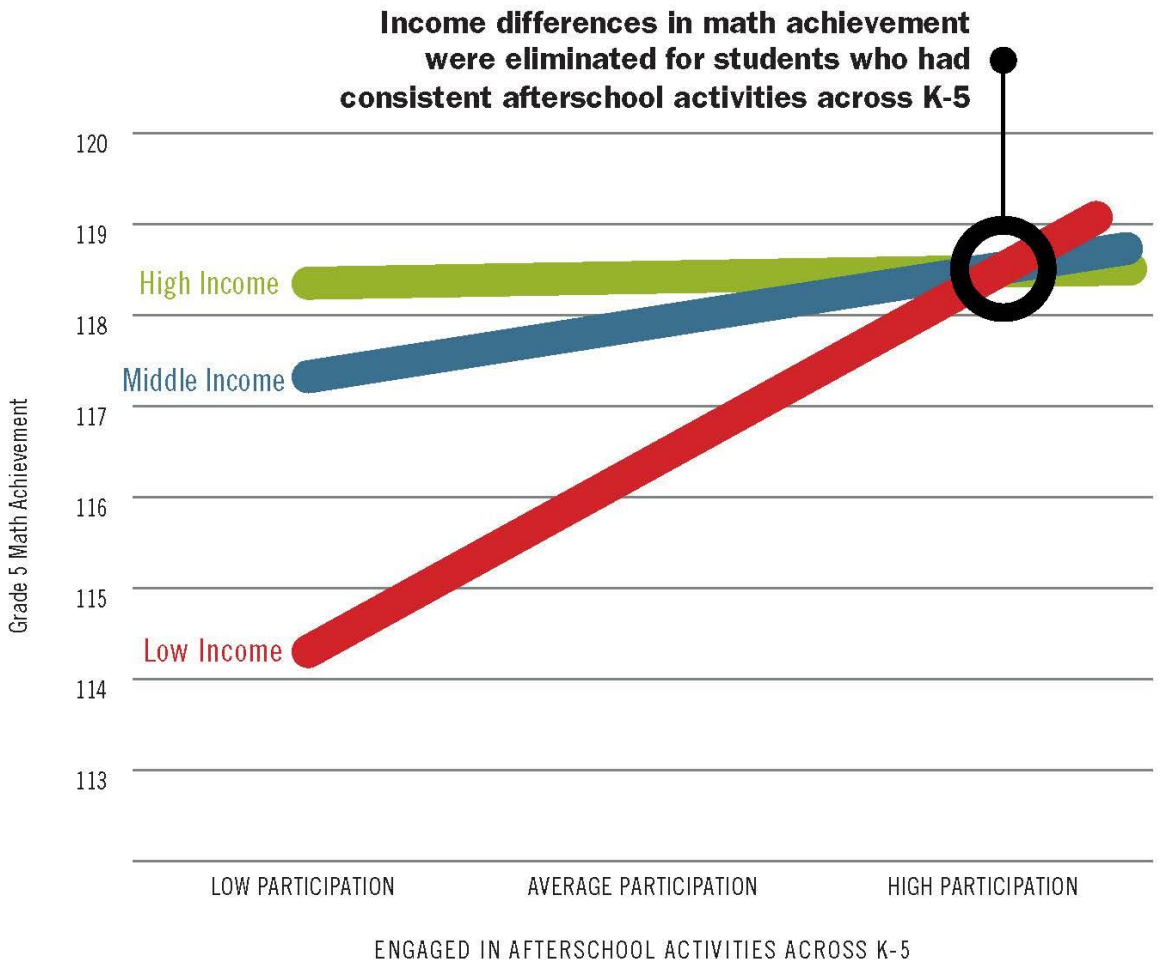
Multidimensional Vision

- First Space- Home and Family
- Second Space- School and Formal Education
- Third Space- Everything Else

- NOTE: 1,000 hours per year in school and 5,000 at home and in community

If we, as a state, are truly interested in eliminating poverty then we have to take into account what our children and youth are doing outside the school day and over the summer.

Afterschool Participation Narrows the Math Achievement Gap[1]



1. Pierce, K. M., Auger, A. and Vandell, D. L. (April, 2013). *Narrowing the Achievement Gap: Consistency and Intensity of Structured Activities During Elementary School.* Unpublished paper presented at the Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting, Seattle, WA.

Unequal access to summer learning opportunities accounts for **2/3 of the achievement gap between low and middle-income students**

Vermont Afterschool

#zapthegap

24% of Vermont kids are alone and **unsupervised from 3 to 6 pm**—the peak hours for kids to commit or become victims of crime

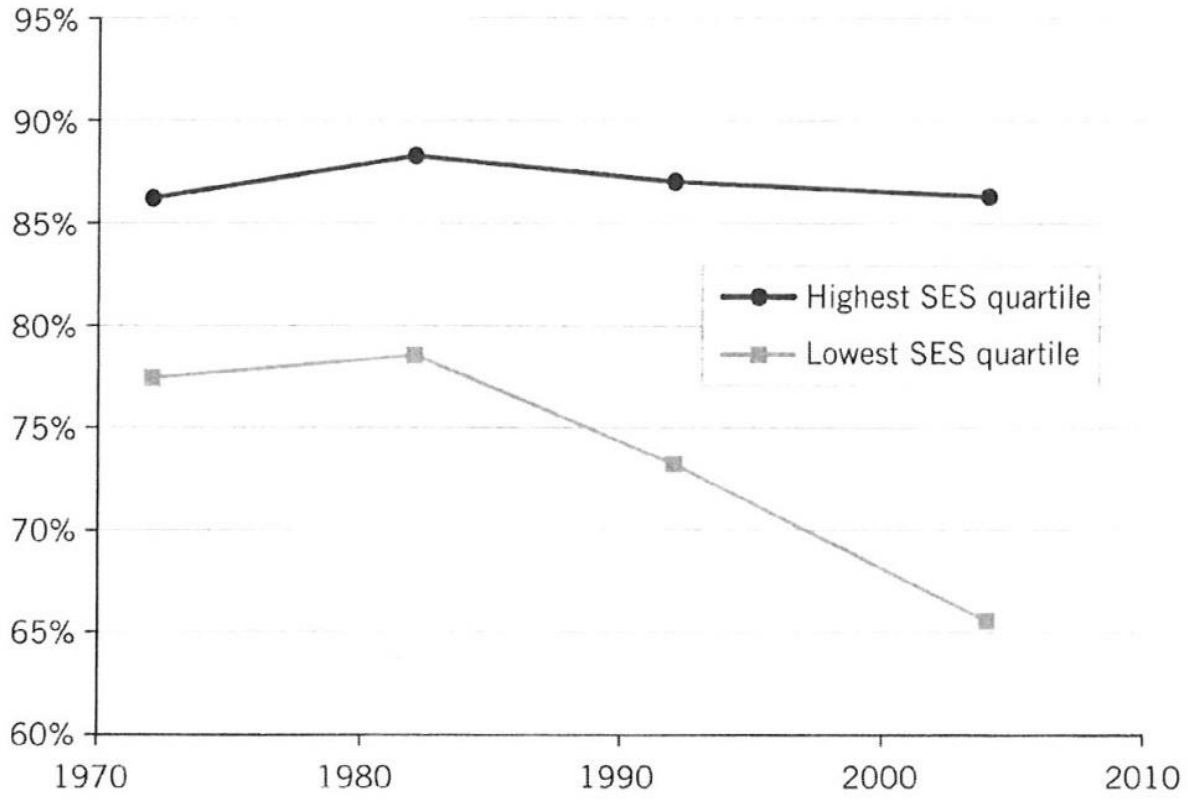
Vermont Afterschool www.vermontafterschool.org

FARM FRESH
planet fitness®

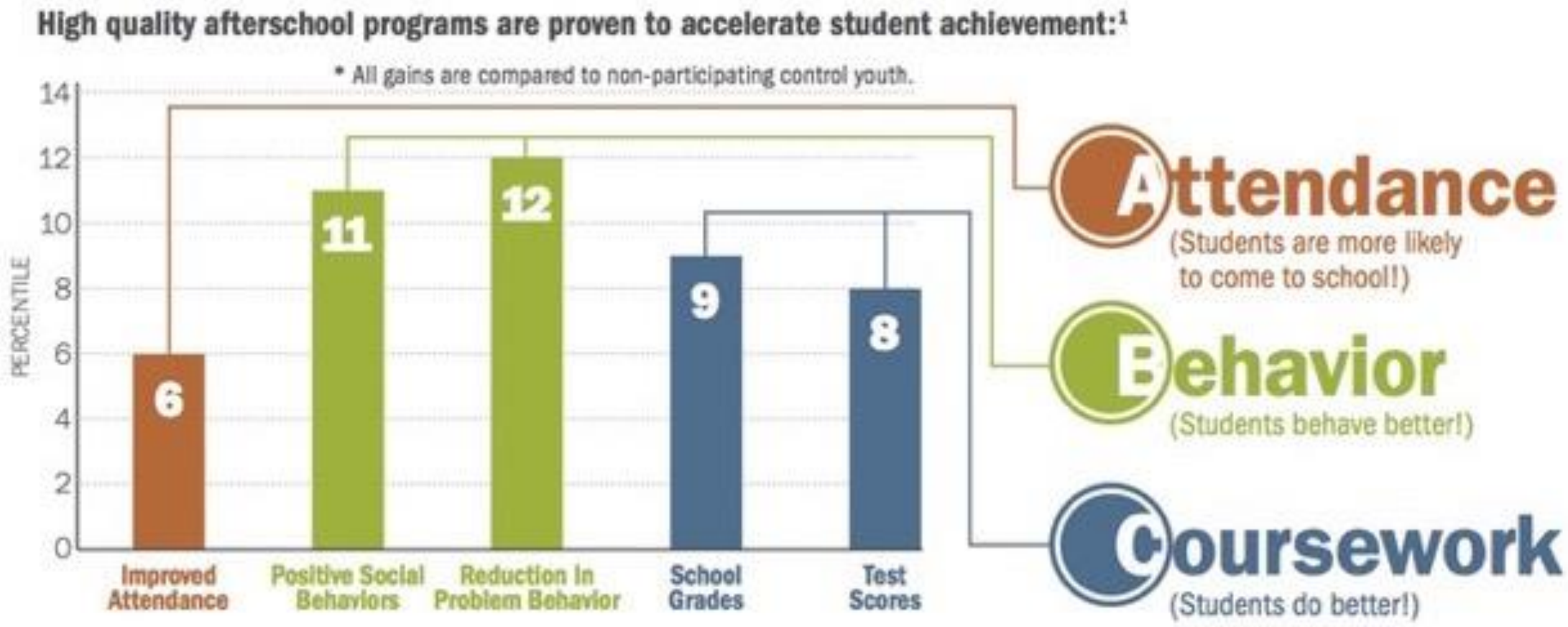
College Connections

Students involved in extracurricular activities on a regular basis are 70% more likely to go on to college

Figure 4.3: Growing class gap in participation in school-based extracurriculars, 1972–2002



Sources: National Longitudinal Study of 1972, High School and Beyond (1980), National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988, Education Longitudinal Study of 2002.


High quality afterschool programs are proven to accelerate student achievement:[1]
* All gains are compared to non-participating control youth.
PERCENTILE
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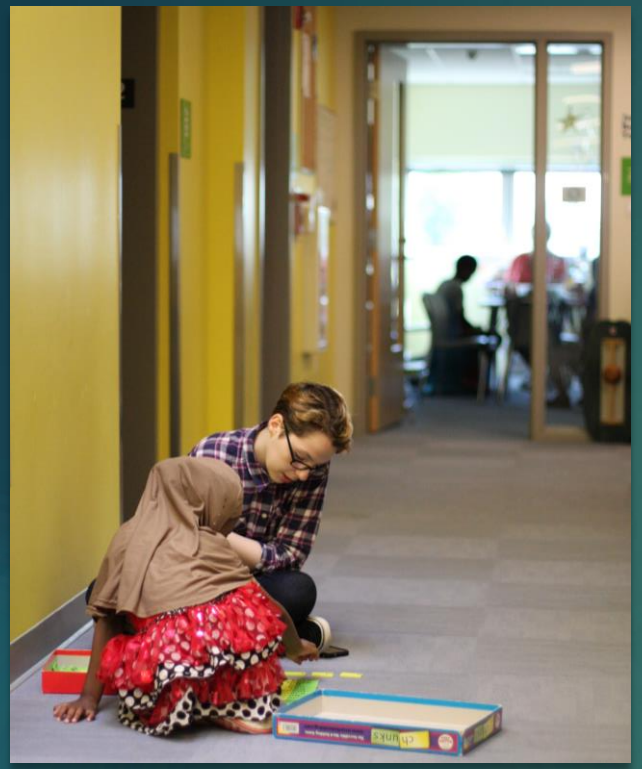
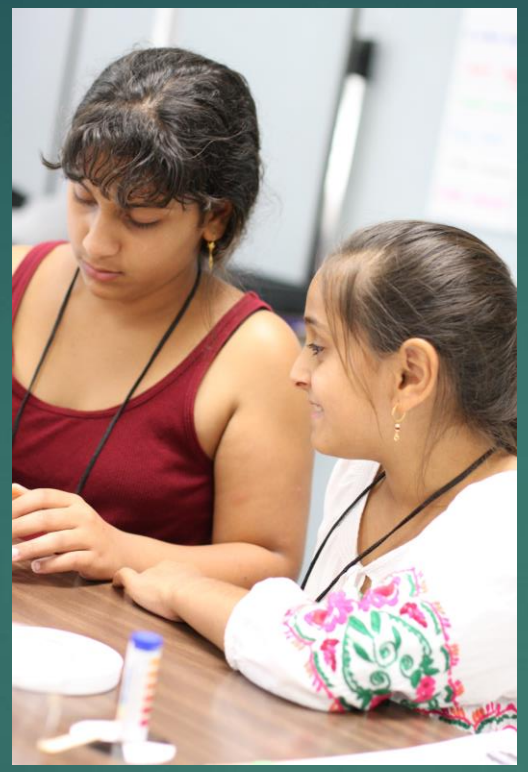
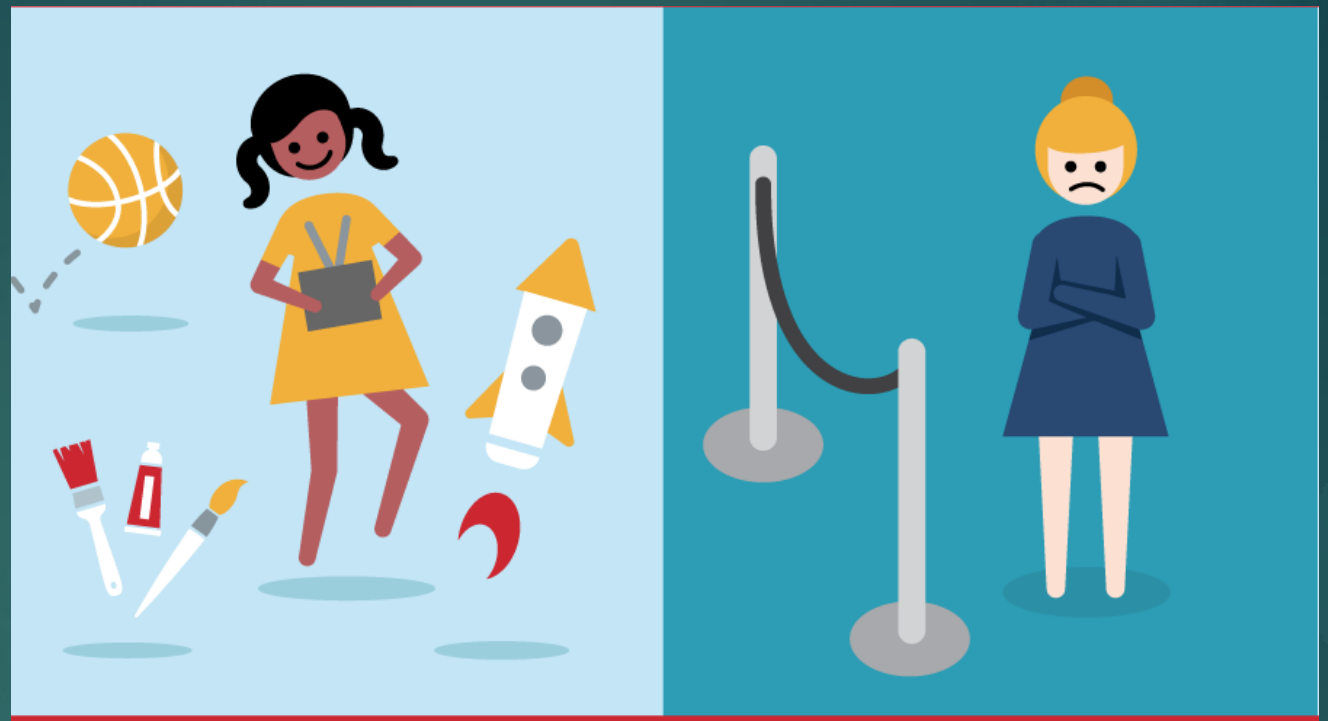
Improved Attendance
Positive Social Behaviors
Reduction In Problem Behavior
School Grades
Test Scores
Attendance
(Students are more likely to come to school!)
Behavior
(Students behave better!)
Coursework
(Students do better!)





Two generation approach and growing healthy, capable, fully-fledged adults



More than 21,000 Vermont kids are enrolled in afterschool, but **22,000 are waiting for an available program**

Vermont Afterschool

#zapthegap

THANK YOU!

Robbie
Youth Ambassador
Vermont Afterschool
AFTERSCHOOL for ALL
Youth Ambassador