

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

Afterschool and summer learning programs provide critical opportunities to support children's behavioral health, helping them build resilience, manage stress, and thrive both in and out of the classroom.

WHY DO WE NEED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND SUPPORTS?

26%
of Georgia's youth, ages 3 to 17 years old, have a diagnosed mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral problem¹

3rd
leading cause of death among youth ages 10-17 is suicide²

56%
of Georgia's children, ages 3-17 struggle to, or were unable to, access needed mental health treatment or counseling³

AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS OFFER:

- Supportive environments and incorporate healthy habits into routine⁴
- Protective factors that improve youth outcomes and mitigate the effects of risk factors^{5, 6}
- Positive behavioral factors like positive decision-making skills, self-control, and self-awareness⁷

 **18%**
of Georgia's school-aged children participated in afterschool programs in 2020⁸

In 2023, **more than 275** government-funded afterschool and summer learning programs operated nearly **1,600 sites** in 112 of Georgia's 159 counties.^{9, 10, 11, 12} These programs serve elementary, middle, and high school-aged students.

WHAT SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS LOOK LIKE

Programs with knowledge of local community resources and an understanding of the basics of mental health reported* greater success in integrating behavioral health into programming.



Robust community engagement with key stakeholders



Training opportunities



Collaboration on funding opportunities



Referral pathways between programs and behavioral health providers



Sharing resources like time, expertise, and facilities

CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY PROVIDERS



Funding



Accessing mental health training



Knowledge of local community resources in referral pathways



SELECT POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Community-based behavioral health providers** should partner with afterschool and summer learning programs to provide behavioral health supports and services.
- **State agencies** should offer existing training opportunities, curricula, and learning platforms to afterschool and youth development professionals.
- **State agencies and philanthropic funders** should create incentive grants for afterschool and summer learning programs to use evidence-based behavioral health curricula, training, and programming.
- **Georgia's Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) and Department of Education (GaDOE)** should encourage Georgia Apex program participants to create partnerships with summer learning programs to use their facilities and extend services to youth during the summer.

For a complete list of recommendations, explore the 2023 Out-of-School Time Behavioral Health Landscape Survey Results at <https://adoble.ly/3xSTbdm>.

FALL 2023 OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME BEHAVIORAL HEALTH LANDSCAPE SURVEY

The 2023 Out-of-School Time Behavioral Health Landscape Survey was conducted by the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and Voices for Georgia's Children, and was funded by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD).



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