NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION • 2024–25 STATEWIDE EVALUATION

21st CCLC Afterschool Programs

Out-of-school time programming reaches thousands of Nebraska students — and the data show that the more students participate, the stronger the results.

Access the evaluation report

REACH ACROSS THE STATE

17,520
Students served in school-year afterschool programming

140
Sites across 38 Nebraska communities

87%
Participants eligible for free/reduced-price lunch

21%
Participants receiving special education services

THE DOSE-RESPONSE PATTERN: MORE HOURS, BETTER OUTCOMES

Federally-required outcome measures (PPOs) show a consistent pattern — students with 270+ hours of programming far outperform those with minimal participation. Meaningful gains emerge starting around **90 hours**.

School-Day Attendance Improvement (chronically-absent students, prior year → this year) — **26% OVERALL**

< 15 hrs/yr	14%
270+ hrs/yr	44%

Math Assessment Score Growth (grades 4–8, year over year) — **24% OVERALL**

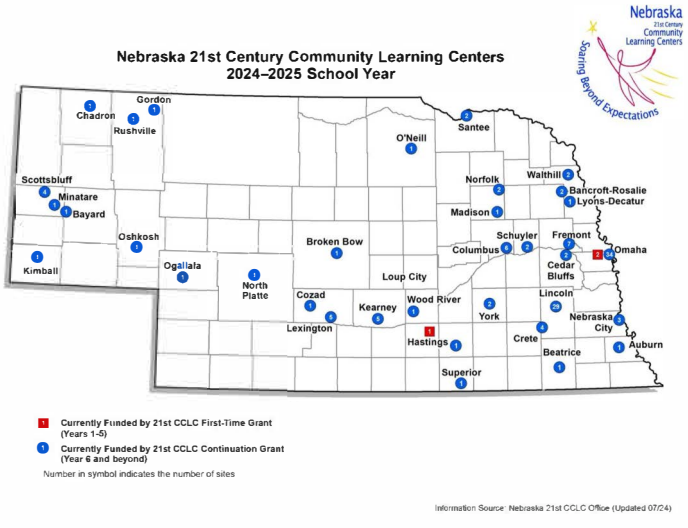
< 15 hrs/yr	17%
270+ hrs/yr	28%

Teacher-Reported Engagement in Learning Improvement (grades 1–5) — **64% OVERALL**

< 15 hrs/yr	57%
270+ hrs/yr	71%

91%
of parents agree the program benefits their child

70%
of students say the program has helped them do better in school



140 sites across 38 Nebraska communities, 2024–25 school year

> *"The afterschool program helped [Student] grow in her academic and social confidence. The program allowed her many opportunities to build relationships with peers and support the learning being done each day in the classroom."*
>
> — TEACHER

> *"I think the afterschool program is doing a great job balancing help with homework, fun activities/exercise, involving community/school clubs, and meeting the needs of the kids! Keep it up!"*
>
> — PARENT

Source: Nebraska Department of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Statewide Evaluation Report, 2024–25 (data collected by UNMC-MMI; evaluation by Partners for Insightful Evaluation, Inc.). PPO = federally required Program Performance Outcome.

NEBRASKA IN NATIONAL CONTEXT

An Affordable, High-Quality Program That Too Few Students Use

Benchmarked against the Afterschool Alliance's America After 3PM survey, 2025 wave (all afterschool provider types, nationally representative)

The Nebraska Paradox

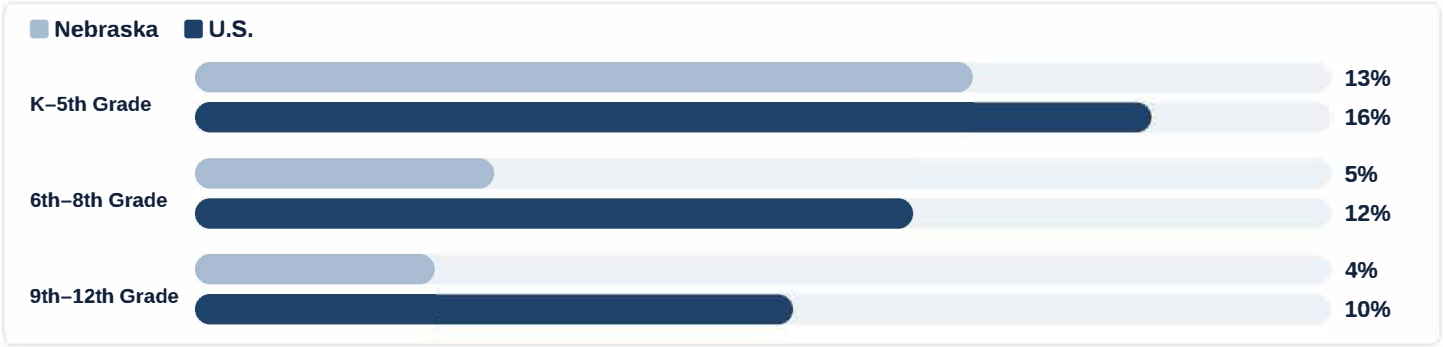
WHAT NEBRASKA DOES WELL

Parent-rated program quality	**4.35/5 — 9th in U.S.**
Affordability ($113/week avg.)	**18th-lowest cost in U.S.**
Weekly hours attended by participants	**6.3 hrs — 4th in U.S.**

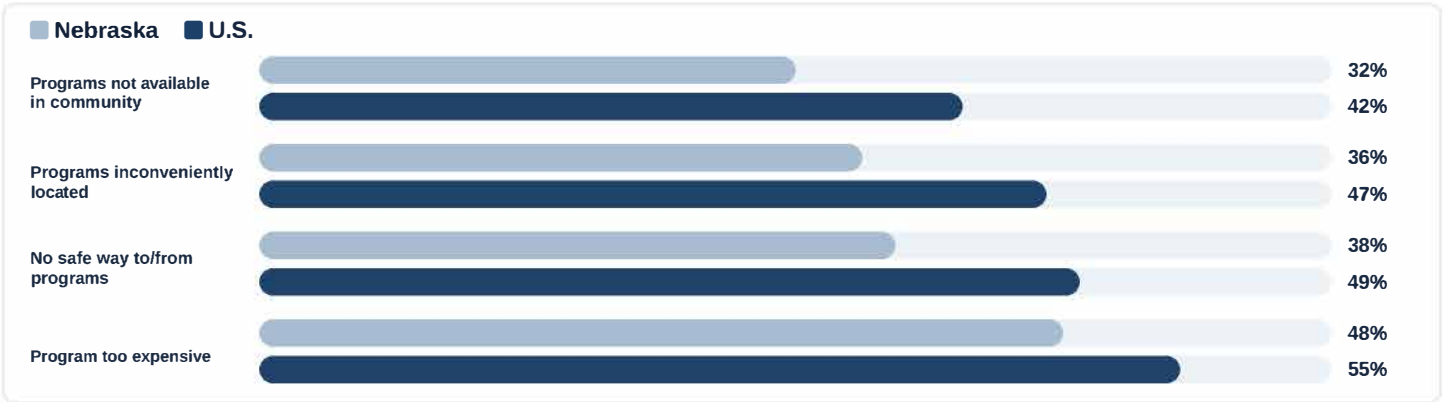
WHERE NEBRASKA FALLS SHORT

Current afterschool participation	**8% — 44th in U.S.**
Unmet demand (would enroll if available)	**37% — 47th in U.S.**
Parents seeing "excitement about learning"	**68% — 50th in U.S.**

PARTICIPATION IN NEBRASKA IS LOWER, ESPECIALLY AMONG OLDER GRADES



NEBRASKA PARENTS PERCEIVE FEWER BARRIERS THAN NATIONAL PEERS



Source: Afterschool Alliance, America After 3PM survey (2025 wave), as cited in the Nebraska 21st CCLC Statewide Evaluation Report, 2024–25.