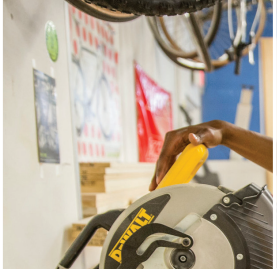
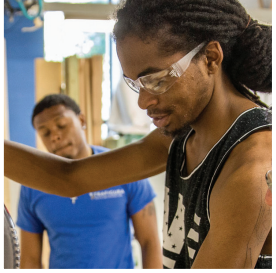
Boston After 3PM STEM

September 2021

S Science

T Technology

E Engineering

M Math

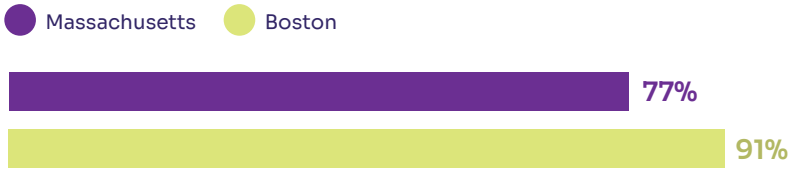
Afterschool and summer programs provide hands-on learning opportunities and a natural space for students to explore, learn, and grow. These programs spark students' interest in STEM and computer science[1] subjects, expose them to future careers, and support school-day learning, all while developing a new generation of problem solvers. But, inequities exist and too many young people are missing out.

Opportunities for STEM learning in Boston afterschool programs and summer camps

According to the America After 3PM survey, 11,996 Boston children participate in an afterschool program and 10,941 children have opportunities to participate in STEM learning in those programs. Compared to the state average, a greater percentage of families in Boston report their child's afterschool program offers STEM learning.

STEM learning in Boston's afterschool programs

Parents reporting that their child's afterschool program offers STEM learning opportunities



STEM opportunities extend into the summer. Based on the 2019 America After 3PM summer data, 4,191 kids participated (5.6%) in summer STEM camps in Boston.

[1] The 2020 America After 3PM survey was the first time that computer science was included as an option for parents to select when identifying different options of STEM activities in their child's afterschool program.

STEM learning in the time of COVID-19:

Nationally, afterschool and summer programs continue to offer STEM learning opportunities

A survey conducted in early 2021 found that 76 percent of afterschool programs were providing STEM learning opportunities, which is similar to the rates of STEM offerings before the pandemic. A June 2021 survey found that 83 percent of summer programs were physically open this year, a nearly 70 percent increase from 2020, with 72 percent offering STEM learning opportunities.

Afterschool programs offering STEM learning opportunities during the pandemic

*Summer programs offering STEM learning**

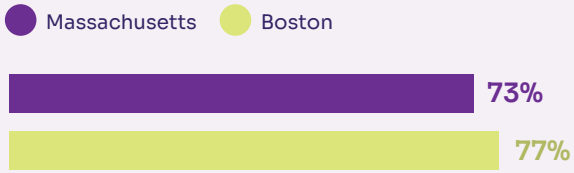
**Among programs operating during summer 2021*

Source: Afterschool Alliance. (2021). Afterschool in the Time of COVID-19 Surveys.

Boston parents value STEM learning in afterschool and summer programs

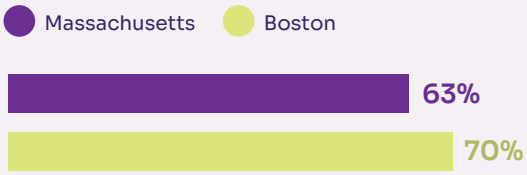
Parents agree that STEM learning in afterschool helps kids gain interest and skills related to STEM

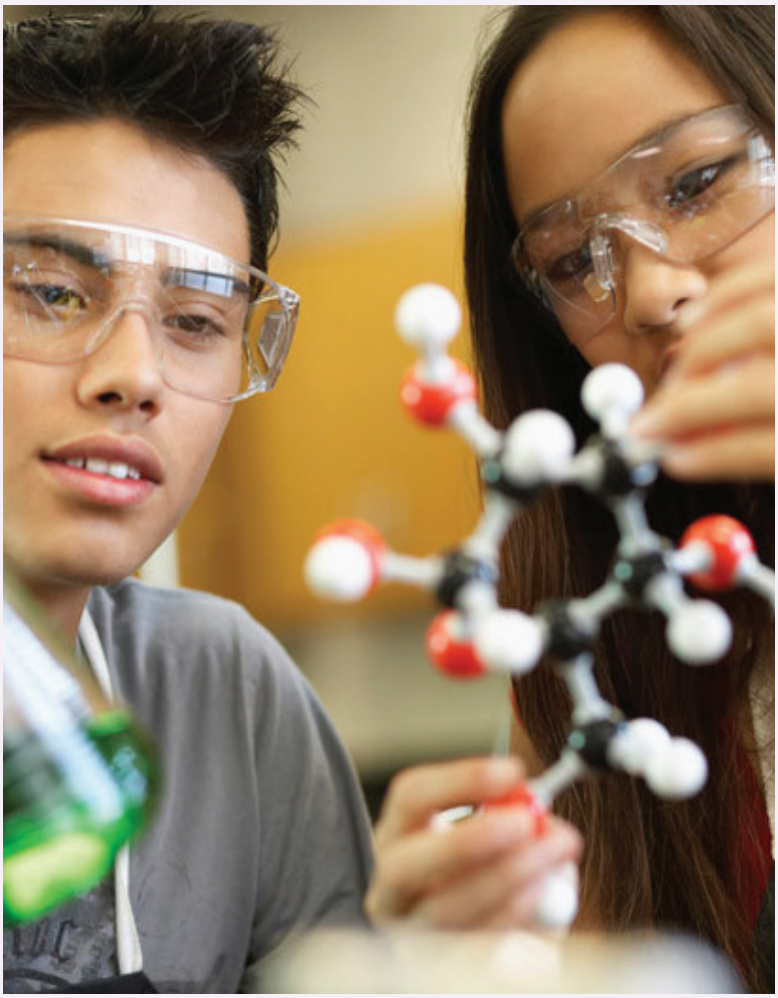
Parents reporting they agree that afterschool programs help children gain interest and skills in STEM



STEM and computer science are an important factor for a majority of Boston parents when selecting their child's afterschool program

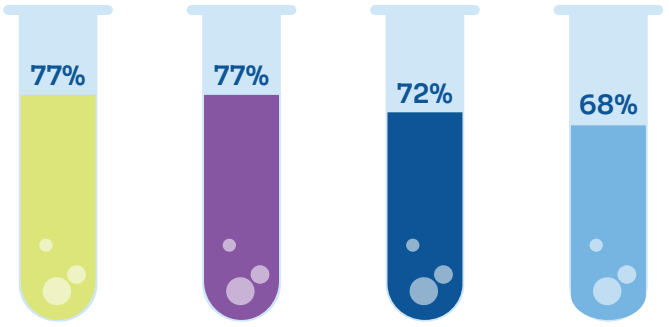
Parents reporting that STEM and computer science learning opportunities are important when choosing an afterschool program

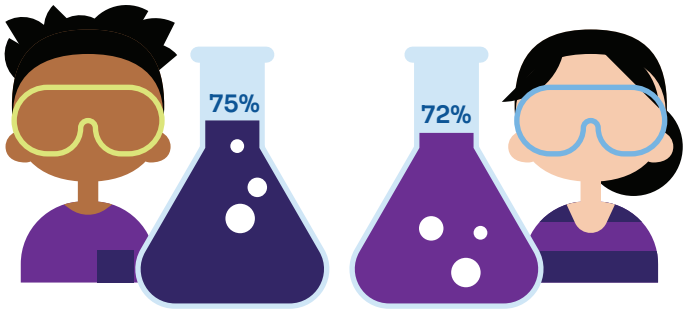




Afterschool programs reach populations traditionally underrepresented in STEM*

Women and people of color are underrepresented in STEM professions. Nationally, parents of Black and Latinx students report that their child's afterschool program offers STEM learning at higher rates than parents of White students. Girls have opportunities to participate in STEM learning at similar rates to boys.



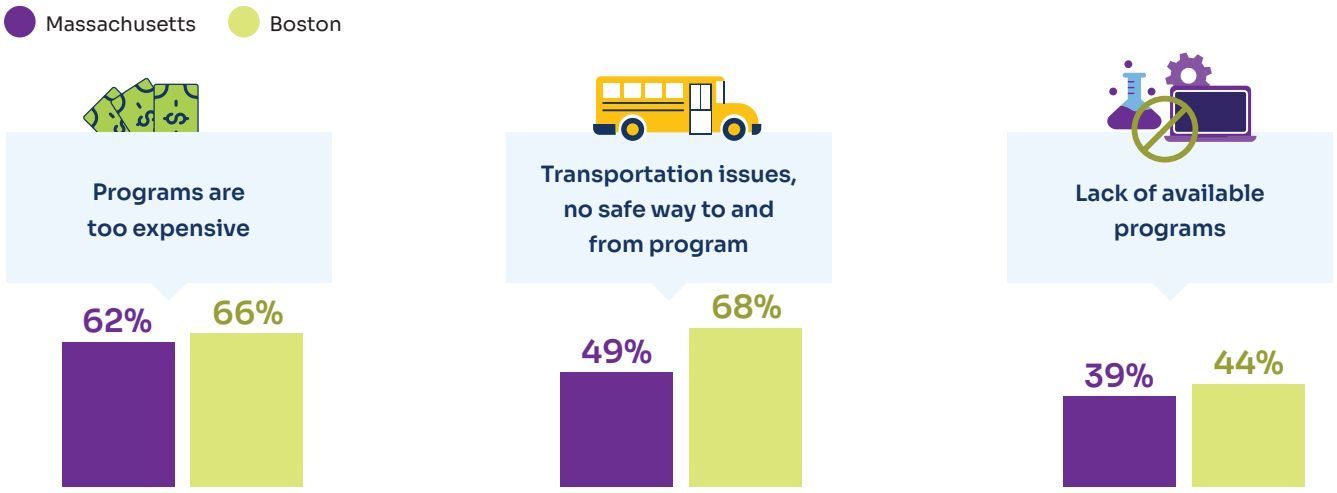


*Among students enrolled in afterschool

Many Boston children are missing out

In Boston, for **every child in an afterschool program, 3 are waiting to get in**. Unmet demand for summer programs is also high for families in Boston. In 2019, more than 14,000 children would have been enrolled in a summer program if one were available to them.

In Boston, cost and access top the list of roadblocks to afterschool program participation



Parents support public funding for afterschool and summer programs

92% of Boston parents in favor of public funding for afterschool

90% of Boston parents in favor of public funding for summer learning opportunities

Public funding brings greater opportunities for students to explore hands-on STEM learning in their afterschool programs.

Afterschool and summer STEM learning offer unique benefits and reach youth traditionally underrepresented in STEM, but millions are missing out. Help us ensure all children have access to afterschool and summer STEM learning.

About the survey

America After 3PM is a national survey of parents or guardians of school-aged children, screening 31,055 households and having 14,393 households completing in-depth interviews via an online survey using a blend of national consumer panels. At least 200 households completed interviews in every state and Washington, D.C., between January 27 and March 17, 2020. Where the minimum could not be met, supplemental telephone interviews were conducted. Data were collected by Edge Research on behalf of the Afterschool Alliance. The percentages and projected numbers in America After 3PM are based on survey responses from parents. In Boston, 128 households and 246 children were screened for this study. Child-level statewide projections and total school enrollment numbers are based on U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018 5-Year Estimates. Total school enrollment for Boston is 74,975.

The America After 3PM special report, *STEM Learning in Afterschool on the Rise, But Barriers and Inequities Exist*, is based on research commissioned and funded by Overdeck Family Foundation. Overdeck Family Foundation was founded in 2011 by John and Laura Overdeck with the goal of providing all children the opportunity to unlock their potential. They focus exclusively on enhancing education, funding efforts both inside and outside of school in the areas of early childhood, informal STEM education, and K-9 programs that include supporting educators and student-centered learning environments.

For additional information about America After 3PM, visit: afterschoolalliance.org/aa3pm.

Data from this special report is based on the 2020 America After 3PM survey results, made possible with the support of the New York Life Foundation, Overdeck Family Foundation, The Wallace Foundation, the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, Altria Group, the Walton Family Foundation, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Boston America After 3PM results were made possible with support from Boston After School & Beyond.

America After 3PM STEM

Afterschool Alliance

The Afterschool Alliance is working to ensure that all children and youth have access to quality afterschool programs.