

focus

AFTERSCHOOL IN
OKLAHOMA



Issue Brief:

Preventing Dropouts in Oklahoma

Dropping out of high means more than the loss of a diploma.

More than **one in three students fail to graduate** from high school in America. As a result, we are losing a graduating class every three years. *America's Promise Alliance*

Over the course of a lifetime, a high school dropout earns **\$260,000 less** than a high school graduate and \$1 million less than a college graduate. *Afterschool Alliance*

High school dropouts are **3.5 times** more likely than high school graduates to be arrested, and **more than 8 times** as likely to be in jail or prison. *Alliance for Excellent Education*

The Oklahoma Afterschool Network (OKAN) is a community of private and public partners who are committed to a vision in which all Oklahoma children and youth are safe, nurtured and involved in enriching activities during their out-of-school time.

Afterschool programs:

- Keep kids safe and healthy
- Inspire learning
- Support working families

Join us at www.okafterschool.org



\$3.8
billion

Lost lifetime earnings for the 2008 class of Oklahoma dropouts.

Alliance for Excellent Education, 2008



Teens not in afterschool programs are:
3 times more likely to skip classes
3 times more likely to use drugs
more likely to drink alcohol, smoke and
engage in sexual activity.
YMCA of the USA, March 2001

Why Afterschool Makes a Difference

Public Safety

The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, sex and gang involvement.

Afterschool programs keeps kids safe and gets them off the streets.

Gang Prevention

In Oklahoma, 29% of our kids are left alone during their afterschool hours.

Afterschool programs keeps them **in school** and **out of gangs**.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Oklahoma ranks 6th in the nation in teen birth rates and one in five Oklahoma children grow up in poverty.

These two indicators are a key reason girls, and often young fathers, drop out of school.

The lack of education leads to lower income - which leads to economic instability for the family. The cycle then repeats indefinitely.

What you can do

It is up to us, as individuals, parents and community leaders to make a difference.

- **Become a mentor** in your community. Many schools, faith organizations, non-profit organizations and civic clubs offer opportunities to donate a few hours of your time to a child.



- **Donate** to afterschool programs in your community.

- **Contact your legislator** to let them know how afterschool programs can benefit your community.

- **Join the Network** at OKAN. It's free! And by joining, you will receive regular updates about quality afterschool programs taking place across the state and our efforts to support those programs through our network!

Online Resources:

Afterschool Alliance
afterschoolliance.org

Oklahoma Department of Education
sde.state.ok.us

Oklahoma State Department of Health
ok.gov/health

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
oica.org

Forum for Youth Investment
forumforyouthinvestment.org

CS Mott Foundation
mott.org

Wallace Foundation
wallacefoundation.org



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OKAN is a program partner with the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy.