



Clevelanders for Afterschool is urging the Cleveland Municipal School District to not eliminate or reduce funding for out-of-school time programming for the 2024-2025 school year.

Afterschool programs are needed now more than ever. According to an article in Cleveland.com, the number of youth charged with homicide in Cuyahoga County nearly doubled from 23 in 2021 to 41 in 2023. Also, the number of stolen cars in Cleveland rose 94% from August 2022 to August 2023 with most thefts carried out by teenagers according to a News 5 article. Afterschool programs reduce youth risky behaviors by providing safe and healthy environments during the hours when 1/3 of school day crimes occur (America After 3 PM Report).

As discussed in Mayor Justin Bibb's Violence Prevention Strategy, the City of Cleveland must "invest in education and after-school programs to keep child and youth people engaged" to help stop youth violence. CMSD's afterschool programs need continued and sustained investment to help keep our children and communities safe.

Please join us in urging CMSD to not eliminate or reduce afterschool programs for the 2024-2025 school year.