

# Accelerating Virginia's Students' Learning & Recovery

## AFTERSCHOOL IS A PARTNER

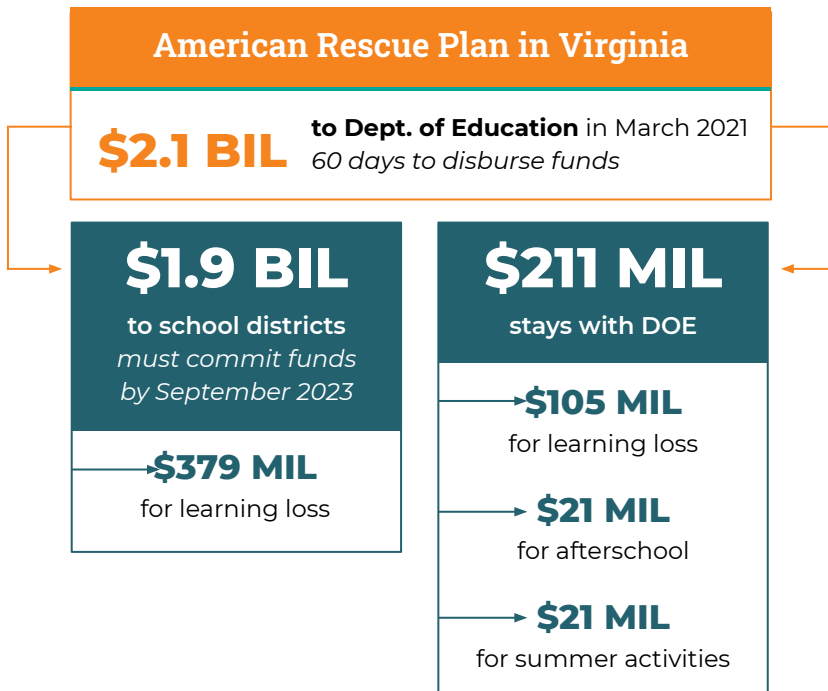
### The Need

More than a year after the pandemic, many schools are struggling to connect with students, especially students of color and those living in low-income communities. Afterschool and summer programs stand ready to help kids **re-engage in learning, rebuild relationships, and emerge from this crisis strong, resilient, and hopeful.**



### The Opportunity

The American Rescue Plan provides our state \$2.1 BIL to address student learning loss and provide wraparound services that kids need to thrive, both in and out of school.



### Leveraging Expanded Learning Experts

VPOST (Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time) represents afterschool and summer enrichment programs across Virginia.. Our programs are evidence-based and proven to help students learn, do better in school, and gain critical life skills. We can help schools accelerate students' academic, social, and emotional recovery.

#### As part of the 50-State Afterschool Network, we can:

- Provide evidence-based best practices from the field of expanded learning programs
- Offer considerations for guidance in dispersing funds
- Provide data on Virginia's programs to help with your deliberations
- Share learning and examples from other states

### Meeting Virginia's Demand for Afterschool



of Virginia's parents are satisfied with their child's afterschool program

# 602,302

Virginia kids are waiting to enroll

During the pandemic, programs stepped up to:



Care for kids of working parents, first responders, and essential staff



Help students and families with remote learning



Stay connected with kids and teens to provide social and emotional support



Distribute meals and groceries



In March 2021, nearly half of programs nationwide reported concerns about closing or laying off staff.

## Evidence-Based & Proven Effective

Afterschool and summer enrichment programs can reinforce what kids learn in school and provide extra support to students who are struggling or have special needs. Programs provide safe places and new opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds to learn, explore, and create without stress.

We offer:

- Caring staff who can help kids build social-emotional skills
- Deep reach in underserved communities
- Strong connections with kids and families
- Expertise leveraging community partners and volunteers

## Accelerating Learning & More

Decades of research prove kids who regularly participate in quality [afterschool](#) and [summer enrichment](#) programs:



Gain self-control, confidence, and social skills



Improve school attendance, work habits, and grades



Make gains in reading and math



Have higher graduation rates

## Peter Paul Community Center: Empowerment through Education

Peter Paul is an outreach and community center serving children and families in Richmond's East End. When the pandemic hit, all Richmond City Public Schools went virtual and have remained mostly remote. To meet the moment, Peter Paul Community Center began offering remote classrooms with virtual academic support and enrichment opportunities for students. They have expanded to offer additional emergency facilitated learning centers, which includes providing transportation, for children of essential workers and teachers out of a nearby middle school.

Peter Paul partners with the whole family. Through the Promise Family Network, parents have created a community focused on strengthening their family wellbeing and developing stronger relationships between parents, children and other families. Activities include weekly virtual hangouts and dinner and discussions, where families come together to cook fun and easy recipes and discuss issues around self-care, parenting, and much more.

Peter Paul is the perfect example of the strong community ties afterschool programs have and how those connections are a powerful tool in keeping kids learning and families engaged during the most challenging times!



Pictured: Peter Paul Volunteers

## Let's Work Together

Virginia can make great strides in addressing equity, diversity, and inclusion by using these funds to support meaningful collaboration between community-based organizations and school districts. Here are some ways we can help:

- *Advising on guidance for local education agencies*
- *Assisting with administering and advising on grant programs for afterschool and summer*
- *Providing data on programs in the state and unmet demand*
- *Identifying programs serving highest need communities*
- *Providing training and quality supports for programs that receive funds*

## Contact Us

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