



WHY AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS MATTER



**80% OF A CHILD'S LIFE
IS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL**



26% OF TEXAS STUDENTS
are responsible for taking care
OF THEMSELVES AFTER SCHOOL¹

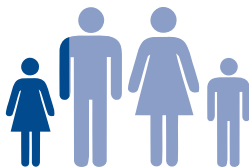
Teens who participate in afterschool programs are:

More likely to:²

- Get better grades/graduate high school
- Have healthy relationships
- Have improved behavior

Less likely to:³

- Use drugs, alcohol or tobacco
- Skip class
- Engage in sexual activity



24% of Fort Worth families with children have income below the poverty level.⁴ Afterschool programs help low-income parents avoid missing work, so they can better afford to provide for their families.⁵

// Afterschool programs make a huge difference in the lives of these kids. They're less likely to get into trouble when they have a safe place to go to get help with homework and pursue other interests. **//**

– Fort Worth Police Chief Jeff Halstead



WHY WE CREATED SPARC

Quality afterschool programs expand children's horizons by igniting the fun of learning and connecting them to supportive adults. The City of Fort Worth has many afterschool programs – but often – parents don't know about them.

Fort Worth SPARC wants all Fort Worth youth to have access to quality afterschool and summer programs. Fort Worth is one of nine U.S. cities granted funding from The Wallace Foundation to coordinate the growth, improvement and promotion of our afterschool programs. Thanks to this funding and the strong support of Mayor Betsy Price, we created SPARC, whose mission is to Strengthen afterschool Programs through Advocacy, Resources and Collaboration. SPARC is a collaboration between the City of Fort Worth, Fort Worth Independent School District, area school districts, afterschool providers and community leaders.

// Education doesn't stop at the end of the school day. In fact, most of a child's time is spent out of school, which is why providing quality afterschool programming is so important. Children who attend afterschool programs do better in school, are less likely to get in trouble and are engaged in programs that provide endless opportunities for them to reach their full potential. SPARC is a sound investment for tomorrow's future! //

– *Mayor Betsy Price*

With the primary goals of supporting quality afterschool programs and enrolling more children in those programs, we will:

- Raise expectations that afterschool programs promote intellectual, creative and healthy development, leading to engaged, productive citizens
- Help programs that support children's success in school and beyond
- Heighten the awareness of the impact that afterschool and summer programs have on youth
- Make families more aware of afterschool programs
- Improve the quality of existing programs by sharing best practices
- Advocate for more funding for programs
- Develop a system for professional development and measuring success

// By offering a safe and stable environment for youth and providing opportunities for school and community partnerships, afterschool programs can be a valuable resource in our city. SPARC will strengthen learning opportunities for all Fort Worth children. //

– *Salvador Espino, Council Member, District 2*

Learn more at **FortWorthSPARC.org**.