

## What's New in Research

October 2009

**The Report:** "America After 3PM"

**Where It's From:** Afterschool Alliance

**The Findings:** The Afterschool Alliance has recently released updated "America After 3PM" data! Be sure to check their website for all the details, and state-specific data will be available October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Some Specifics:**

- Significantly more youth are participating in after-school programs now than five years ago.
- Unfortunately, there is greater need and demand for such programs, so the number of youth without access to a program has also increased.

**The Full Report Is Available At:** <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM.cfm>

**The Report:** "Research Findings to Support Effective Educational Policymaking: Evidence & Action Steps for State, District & Local Policymakers"

**Where It's From:** The Wallace Foundation, September 2009

**The Findings:** This report covers a variety of topics related to education policy, including "expanding opportunities for out-of-school learning." The recommendations focus on aligning policies among states and districts to create such opportunities and ensure that they are of high quality.

**Some Specifics:**

- Community mapping can be an important step in understanding what programs exist and what needs need to be met.
- Improved data about attendance and student and parent preferences can play an important role in this process as well.
- Summer programs are a key element of any policy.

**The Full Report Is Available At:** <http://www.wallacefoundation.org/Documents/Research-Findings-Action-Items-to-Support-Effective-Educational-Policymaking.pdf>

**The Report:** "Can After-School Programs Help Level the Playing Field for Disadvantaged Youth?"

**Where It's From:** Equity Matters, Research Review Number 4, October 2009

**The Findings:** After-school programs have been proven to lead to positive outcomes for youth. While these gains in such areas as academic achievement and attitude are often small and cannot be the only avenue for closing achievement gaps, they undoubtedly play a role.

**Some Specifics:**

- Further research, particularly experimental research, is needed to better understand what after-school can and cannot do.
- After-school may have bigger impacts on youth who are more disadvantaged.

**The Full Report Is Available At:** [http://cms.tc.columbia.edu/i/a/document/11242\\_After-school\\_report\\_10-7-09\\_web.pdf](http://cms.tc.columbia.edu/i/a/document/11242_After-school_report_10-7-09_web.pdf)