



# Access AfterSchool 2023/24 School Year Evaluation Report

Access AfterSchool (Access) served a total of 1,006 students in three programs during the 2023/24 school year:

**Accelerate (XLR8):** An afterschool program that aims to provide both academic support and enrichment activities, fostering a supportive learning environment that adapts to the specific needs of each student. By maintaining small class sizes, the program ensures personalized attention and support, enhancing the educational experience and overall development of students at four different elementary schools. In the school year 2023/2024, Accelerate (XLR8) served 196 students in Garfield County.



**SecondShift:** An afterschool enrichment and academic program for elementary and middle school students, emphasizing eight core youth development traits: health literacy, creativity, responsibility, critical thinking, initiative, growth mindset, collaboration, digital literacy, and college/career readiness skills that young people need to thrive. During the 2023/2024 school year, SecondShift served 656 students in seven middle and five elementary schools across three counties (Garfield, Eagle, and Pitkin) in rural Western Colorado.

**BoostCamp 2024:** BoostCamp is a five-week, full-day summer program for youth in grades 1 through 5. As one of the only summer camps in the area, BoostCamp serves as a vital resource not only for dual-working families but also for students aiming to retain knowledge over the summer break. Students are engaged in high-quality programming in a safe and healthy environment, receiving the support they need to enter the upcoming school year prepared for success. In 2024, BoostCamp benefitted 154 students



*“Overall, this is a great program that helps working parents keep their kids busy and engaged in academics while also engaging in fun activities. It helps boost kids’ confidence in themselves and their ability to solve problems on their own or with extra support. They learn so much about each other and get to make friends they can keep in touch with.” - Grateful Parent*

## OUR MISSION:

We are committed to enriching the lives of youth, supporting working families, and building healthy communities by providing high-quality after school and summer programs.

## OUR VISION:

We envision communities in which youth are connected to their peers, families, mentors, and the community at large; where youth feel a sense of belonging, are socially and emotionally supported, are inspired to explore their interests, and are empowered for the future.

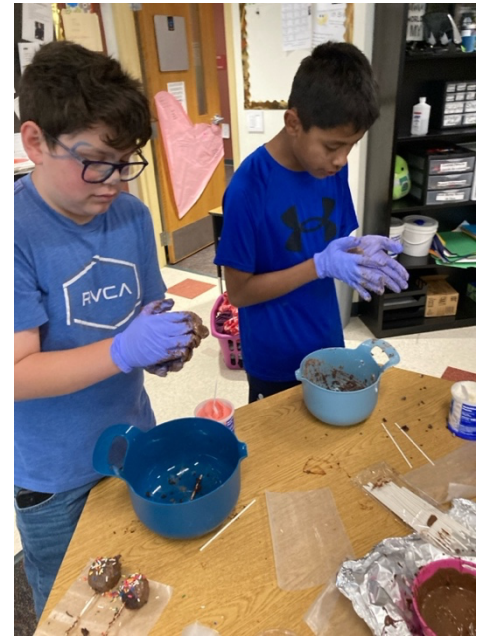
## Some of the many successes from the previous year include:

**Motivation and School Engagement:** According to the data found in post-program surveys, 96% of students reported that participating in Access AfterSchool programs has enhanced their enjoyment of school. Additionally, 95% of students feel better prepared for school due to the support provided by Access AfterSchool. Finally, 90% of students noted an improvement in their grades, and 90% reported completing their homework more consistently as a result of attending Access AfterSchool programs.

**Social-Emotional Wellness:** Participants demonstrated measurable social and emotional gains in post-program surveys. Students reported:



- 92% are more responsible
- 95% are more creative
- 94% feel heard and feel like their opinions matter
- 97% are more confident
- 92% better at managing stress
- 98% are happier



**Physical Wellness:** A fundamental principle of Access AfterSchool's programs is active student engagement through both learning and doing. One of the seven 21st Century skills that instructors integrate into their curriculum is Health Literacy, which promotes an active lifestyle, encourages healthy decision-making, and builds self-confidence. Classes such as soccer, basketball, mountain biking, long-distance running, fencing, fun fitness, unicycle club, dance, group jump roping, and yoga help students develop physical skills, stay active, and incorporate health, wellness, and mindfulness into their daily routines. Notably, 93% of participants report making healthier choices, 91% report improved overall well-being and 97% are more willing to try new things.

**College, Career & Life Success:** 97% of students indicated an improvement in their goal-setting skills and 99% say Access AfterSchool's programs helped them make better decisions. Access AfterSchool has partnered with organizations such as Colorado Mountain College, Andy Zanca Youth Empowerment Program, Holy Cross Energy, Aspen Science Center, and more to help provide youth with the opportunity to explore new experiences, build skills in areas of current interest to them and discover new pathways to learning. The XLR8 and SecondShift program helps students succeed academically and provides youth with the opportunity to explore new experiences, build skills in areas of current interest to them and discover new pathways to learning. 90% say that they feel happier about their future.



**Positive Relationship Building:** A low instructor–student ratio (average of 8 students to 1 instructor) offers students individualized support from adults in the community who lead classes. Because of this personal attention, 100% of XLR8 participants look up to their instructor as a mentor and 100% say that they know that there is an adult who cares about them. 94% of youth say that they feel listened to and that their opinion matters in Access' programs.