What are out-of-school programs?

Out-of-school programs include all opportunities and programs available to school-age youth outside of the school day including before school, after school, evening, during school breaks, on weekends, or during the summer. Programs can include one-time opportunities or programming offered on a consistent basis.

The Idaho Out-of-School Network and University of Idaho conducted a survey of 437 out-of-school programs across the state. This fact sheet represents 31 out-of-school programs in Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls Counties.

There is a need for more programs in Idaho’s rural counties.

Most out-of-school programs in Region 4 are provided by schools, libraries, and 4-H.

Out-of-School Programs in Region 4 by County

Age Groups Served by Region 4 Out-of-School Programs

100% of programs serve youth ages 5-11 Elementary
71% of programs serve youth ages 12-14 Middle School
57% of programs serve youth ages 15-18 High School

Just 8 programs in this region serve all youth ages 5 to 18, creating barriers for families with multiple children of different ages.

45% of Region 4 programs maintain a wait list.
Out-of-school programs help Idaho children and communities thrive by:

1. Improving work habits and school grades
2. Increasing school attendance
3. Increasing likelihood of high school graduation
4. Decreasing participation in risky behaviors and crime
5. Increasing job retention
6. Increasing learning engagement and positive social behavior

Out-of-school programs in Region 4 serve more than 5,200 youth each year.

One in six of these programs serve more than 500 youth each year.

Many programs offer their services free of charge, use a sliding scale, or provide scholarships.

61% of programs in Region 4 have 2 employees or less, limiting the number of children that can participate in out-of-school programs.

Sources: Goldschmidt, Huang, & Chinen, 2007; Huang, Gribbons, Kim, Lee, & Baker, 2000; Huang, Leon, Harven, La Torre, & Mostafavi, 2009; Huang, Leon, & La Torre, 2011; Huang, Leon, La Torre, & Mostafavi, 2008; Afterschool Alliance, 2019