



## **School-Age Care for Children: Resources for Parents and Providers**

In North Carolina, there are 1.1 million children between the ages of 5 through 14. Many of these children reside in homes of working parents, thus making the need for school-age care (before and after school) a pressing issue. How and where will these children spend their out-of-school time while their parents are at work?

On the national level, the Urban Institute estimates that 4 million 6 through 12 year-olds with employed mothers, roughly 21% of children, are regularly without adult supervision when not in school. Even with the variety of programs that are currently available, the need for before and after-school care for school-age children remains quite significant.

Here in North Carolina, Governor Mike Easley created the North Carolina Center for After School Programs (NC CAP) to help make access to quality after-school programs and care a reality for all children. NC CAP brings together after-school providers, community leaders and policy makers to address after-school programs by examining issues of quality, accessibility, and sustainable funding. Although NC CAP does not operate or provide funding to any after-school programs, it does:

- ❖ Act as a resource for after-school providers, communities and families; and
- ❖ Provide information to educate providers on local, state, and national funding sources.

More information on NCCAP is available at <http://www.nccap.net/>.

[The North Carolina Division of Child Development](#) encourages parents to visit our website to learn more about licensed child care.

❖ [NC Child Care Licensing Requirements](#)

Learn about the rules and regulations that must be followed to ensure safe, healthy and enriching out-of-home care for children.

❖ [Child Care Facility Search Site](#)

Search the Division's Facility Search Site for information on locating facilities that provide care for school-age children.

---

In an effort to focus on the need for quality school-age care, the following links are provided for both providers and parents:

[NC School-Age Care Coalition](#)

This site provides information on NSACA accreditation, training opportunities, and afterschool best practices.

[NC 4-H School-Age Care Program](#)

This site provides resources for funding and sustaining afterschool programs, curriculum ideas, and information for parents.

[4-H National Afterschool Program](#)

This site offers resources for training, marketing tools for 4-H Afterschool initiatives, and information on reporting and evaluation. 4-H also offers grants to afterschool programs.

[National School-Age Care Alliance \(NSACA\)](#)

NSACA promotes national standards of quality school-age care for children and youth 5 - 14 years old, and grants accreditation to programs meeting the standards. NSACA also sponsors an annual national conference for over 2,500 practitioners and advocates.

### **Communities in Schools (CIS)**

CIS supports the 31 local CIS organizations across the state, and advocates for children, youth, and their families. The website provides descriptions of and contact information for local programs, which are listed by county.

### **Support Our Students Program (SOS)**

SOS is a community based initiative that provides after-school activities for school-aged children by awarding grants to neighborhood and community-based organizations. SOS is a public private partnership that targets middle school students during after-school hours by engaging them in a structured setting to help with homework and other enrichment activities.