



## NEW JERSEY AFTER 3 - YEAR TWO (FY '07) EVALUATION REPORT SUMMARY

Policy Studies Associates (PSA), a leading national policy evaluation and educational research organization, has been conducting an independent, comprehensive 3-year longitudinal evaluation of NJAfter3– statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding afterschool opportunities to New Jersey’s youth.

The study commenced in FY 06 (July 2005 – June 2006) and will continue through FY 08 (July 2007 – June 2008). It was designed to assess both the implementation of the NJ After 3’s initiative and its impact on participants; as well as provide objective data and recommendations which will strengthen NJAfter3 programming and guide future resource allocations.

Outlined below are highlights of the key findings from the Year 2 Report (FY 07). To view the full report please visit: <http://www.njafter3.org/about.php?p=f>

### Enrollment & Attendance

- The NJAfter3 initiative succeeded in expanding the availability of afterschool services throughout the state and increasing youth participation in its programs. Enrollment grew by 3,270 students, from 11,108 the first year of the study to 14,378 in the second year.
- Minority enrollment remained high (87%) for a second year demonstrating that NJAfter3 is successfully engaging the minority community and validating NJ After 3’s commitment to ALL NJ youth and families. (Year two participants were 38% Hispanic and 47% African American)
- High attendance rates are being achieved, consistent with other nationally known, high-quality afterschool programs. Attendance jumped from an already high 73% in year one to 77% in year two.

### Academic Improvements

- The report notes statistically significant gains in the language arts skills of NJA3 participants who have been in the program for two years. The effect size of this impact (.47) is significant when compared with other interventions such as: Aspirin on heart disease (.03); class size reductions on math achievement (.23); and school-based substance abuse prevention programs on drug & alcohol use (.09)<sup>1</sup>.
- Most participants attributed important academic, social, and personal outcomes to their involvement in the program. 82% of students felt that NJA3 helped them complete their homework more often while over 70% felt that NJA3 helped them in math, reading and getting better grades.

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<sup>1</sup> Vandell, Deborah. Outcomes Linked to High-Quality Afterschool Programs Presentation, January 2008. UC Irvine.



- Technical assistance from NJA3 is a critical factor positively correlated with achieving desired youth outcomes.