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Estimating Supply and Demand for School-age Child Care in Vermont

A Supplement to the 2026 Supply Demand Gap Analysis Report

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Analysis: Supply and Demand of School-age Child Care

The [2026 Supply Demand Gap Analysis](#) completed by First Children's Finance (FCF) built on the previous Stalled at the Start report series developed by Let's Grow Kids to analyze the supply of full-day, full-year child care supply and demand in Vermont. School aged care has not been historically included in this supply and demand analysis, however this special brief provides additional context to a more accurate reflection of supporting the business of school age child care. .

Out-of-school-time child care for school aged children plays an important role in the child care ecosystem and is often a component of licensed and registered early care programs. However, it presents a distinct set of considerations for families and providers.

The Afterschool Alliance's 2025 *Vermont After 3PM*¹ report surveyed parents and guardians of children in Vermont to estimate demand of afterschool child care and parental perceptions of accessibility and affordability. Their findings estimate that 21 percent of elementary age children and 8 percent of middle school age children are already participating in afterschool care. Additionally, they estimate that of children not currently in afterschool care, 49 percent of elementary aged children (aged 5-10), and 33 percent of middle school aged children (aged 11-13) would participate in afterschool programming if one were available. FCF understands this total sample, of those currently in afterschool and those who would participate if a program were available, to be the total demand population of just over 30,000 children.

On the supply side, FCF analyzed the reported licensed capacity of afterschool slots across both regulated afterschool programs and licensed and regulated child care programs. Consistent with the Supply Demand Gap Analysis assumption that programs operate with a functional capacity that is 85 percent of their licensed capacity; Vermont has an estimated 11,263 school age slots available to families statewide. Approximately three quarters of these slots are offered through afterschool programs, with the other quarter distributed among center and home-based care providers.

¹ <https://afterschoolalliance.org/AA3PM/data/vermont/demand>

Using Vermont Department of Health population data, the table below provides a county level breakdown of the total estimated demand for afterschool, as defined above. The table also includes the functional capacity of regulated local programs and the percentage of children with access to afterschool care. This data displays geographic disparities in available school-age child care.

Table 1: Supply and Demand of School-age Child Care by County

County	Total demand for school-age care	Functional capacity	% of children with access
Addison	1,564	893	57%
Bennington	1,759	303	17%
Caledonia	1,389	487	35%
Chittenden	7,491	3,992	53%
Essex	286	14	5%
Franklin	2,879	416	14%
Grand Isle	330	58	18%
Lamoille	1,349	363	27%
Orange	1,359	480	35%
Orleans	1,399	204	15%
Rutland	2,746	1,378	50%
Washington	2,812	1,009	36%
Windham	2,024	414	20%
Windsor	2,668	1,255	47%
Vermont	30,055	11,263	37%

Statewide, programs meet 37% of the likely demand for school age child care. However, this percentage varies greatly by county. Addison, Chittenden and Rutland counties have at least half of children able to access care, while Essex, Franklin and Orleans counties have 15% or fewer children with access to care.

As investments continue to be made in new and expanded afterschool care in Vermont, it may be of interest to repeat this analysis over time.