

HOW DO YOUR CORPORATE POLICIES SUPPORT AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS?

80% of our kids' time is spent outside the classroom. Over 70% of Georgia's school-age children live in families where both parents work making the after school hours an even more critical time than ever before. Afterschool can ensure that young people build the leadership, teamwork and other abilities they will need to compete in a global economy. These premier businesses are taking meaningful steps to keep Georgia's children safe, increase their academic achievement, and strengthen families — while at the same time increasing their bottom line.



FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ATLANTA: Chess Mates for Afterschool

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta supports and encourages community involvement at all levels. We believe that participating in activities that better the community advances our vision of being a “model public institution.” One of the opportunities provided by Atlanta Fed community relations is the Centennial YMCA's after-school chess program. Employees make weekly trips to the YMCA in the spring and fall to play chess with students from Centennial Place Elementary.

“The program provides a brief mentoring opportunity for the volunteer, and the development of cognitive and consequential thinking for the children by playing the game of chess,” said Chris Alexander, Assistant Vice President and chess volunteer. “The program also helps to create healthy social interactions between the volunteers and the children through the competition of the game. The game itself reinforces the fact that there are many perspectives of addressing challenges and problems, and reinforces the discipline of remaining calm and never giving up.” Since 2004, Atlanta Fed volunteers have devoted more than 300 hours to the chess program, touching the lives of 50 kids.

GEORGIA-PACIFIC CORPORATION: Providing Time for Tutoring

For the past 10 years the Georgia-Pacific Corporation has participated in the Atlanta Partners for Education (APFE) program. The partnership promotes children and youths' increased academic achievement, community involvement, and social and emotional growth. One component of this partnership is the Georgia-Pacific Buddy/Tutoring program which currently provides over 200 Georgia-Pacific one-on-one tutors for 100 students in reading and mathematics. Tutors work with students in third through fifth grades, typically staying with the same student through all three grades. Each student is matched with a pair of tutors which ensures that the students are never without a tutor.

With the help of Georgia-Pacific volunteers, M. Agnes Jones moved from having 24% of students reading at or above grade level to now over 97% reading at or above grade level. In addition to tutoring, Georgia-Pacific's 10-year partnership has supported needs for various teacher trainings, computer technology and facility improvements. Georgia-Pacific has demonstrated its commitment to afterschool opportunities by making time during the work day for employees to spend with children to boost both their academic achievement and social development.

IBM: Committed to Work/Life Policies

IBM established the Work/Life programs to help employees better manage their work and personal lives. These programs accomplish this by creating a flexible work environment which is sensitive to an individual's needs and responsibilities. At the same time, Work/Life programs stimulate the development and expansion of programs that enhance the quality of life for communities. IBM believes it is in its best interest to help employees balance the pressures of work with the demands of home. Through these Work/Life programs, employees have greater access to the workplace and are more productive because their personal issues can be easily addressed. IBM Work/Life programs are intended to attract, motivate, and retain key talent by helping employees manage the demands of their jobs and personal lives.

IBM is part of the American Business Collaboration (ABC) which is a groundbreaking collaboration of leading U.S. companies partnering to ensure that their employees have access to quality dependent care programs and services to help them manage their work and personal responsibilities. ABC has child care, school-age care, backup emergency care, and elder care programs. By improving dependent care issues to enhance the work/life balance for employees, ABC Champions, such as IBM, impact their corporate bottom line and experience measurable business results.

This list is not meant to be exhaustive, but as a starting point for gathering the many good examples of businesses supporting afterschool and summer activities in our state. The Georgia Afterschool Investment Council (GAIC) encourages businesses to forward their examples of corporate leadership so that we can highlight your company's involvement on our website and possibly in a future publication on this critical topic. For more information, please visit our website at

www.afterschoolga.org or contact Rachel Wellborn at rwellborn@afterschoolga.org.