Mayor de Blasio and his administration have greatly expanded afterschool options for NYC middle schoolers through the School's Out New York City (SONYC) initiative. Through the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), NYC is supporting organizations across the city in providing new programs and expanding existing ones. American Institutes for Research (AIR), an independent evaluator, has been studying the SONYC expansion. In Year 2, AIR surveyed school principals and program directors across the SONYC initiative and conducted youth focus groups in a sample of high-performing programs. Findings suggest that program and school leaders believe the SONYC program makes a strong contribution through the variety and quality of program activities, the quality of the program staff, and the relationships the staff have with youth.

WHAT DO SCHOOL PRINCIPALS SAY ABOUT SONYC?

Because of the program, many kids who would not otherwise participate in afterschool have opportunities to do so.

- 96% report that program staff treat all young people fairly
- 93% perceive the afterschool program as providing a warm and welcoming environment
- 87% feel supported by the afterschool program at their school

WHAT DO PROGRAM DIRECTORS SAY ABOUT SONYC?

We empower students to take ownership in the design and development of their program.

- 100% report that program staff respect and value youth
- 99% design program activities to purposefully facilitate learning and promote skill-building
- 98% report that they provide program opportunities for youth leadership with the goal of building youth leadership skills
SONYC programs enrolled over 71,000 participants. City-wide, over 116,000 middle school students attended after-school programs, with the balance served by other programs at DYCD and the Department of Education. DYCD hired independent research firm American Institutes for Research to conduct the ongoing implementation evaluation.

**SONYC ENROLLMENT CONTINUES TO RISE**

**SCHOOL YEAR 2013–14**
18,702 youth enrolled in 143 programs

**SCHOOL YEAR 2014–15**
58,745 youth enrolled in 459 programs

**SCHOOL YEAR 2015–16**
66,598 youth enrolled in 511 programs

**SONYC EVALUATION BY THE NUMBERS**
- 286 school principal surveys
- 379 program director surveys
- 12 hours of focus groups with 83 youth at a sample of high-performing programs
- Analysis of SONYC data

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