

Final Report

**Out-of-School Time Youth Programs
Provider Survey**

State of Utah

Final Report

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Out-of-School Time Youth Programs Provider Survey

Prepared for

State of Utah
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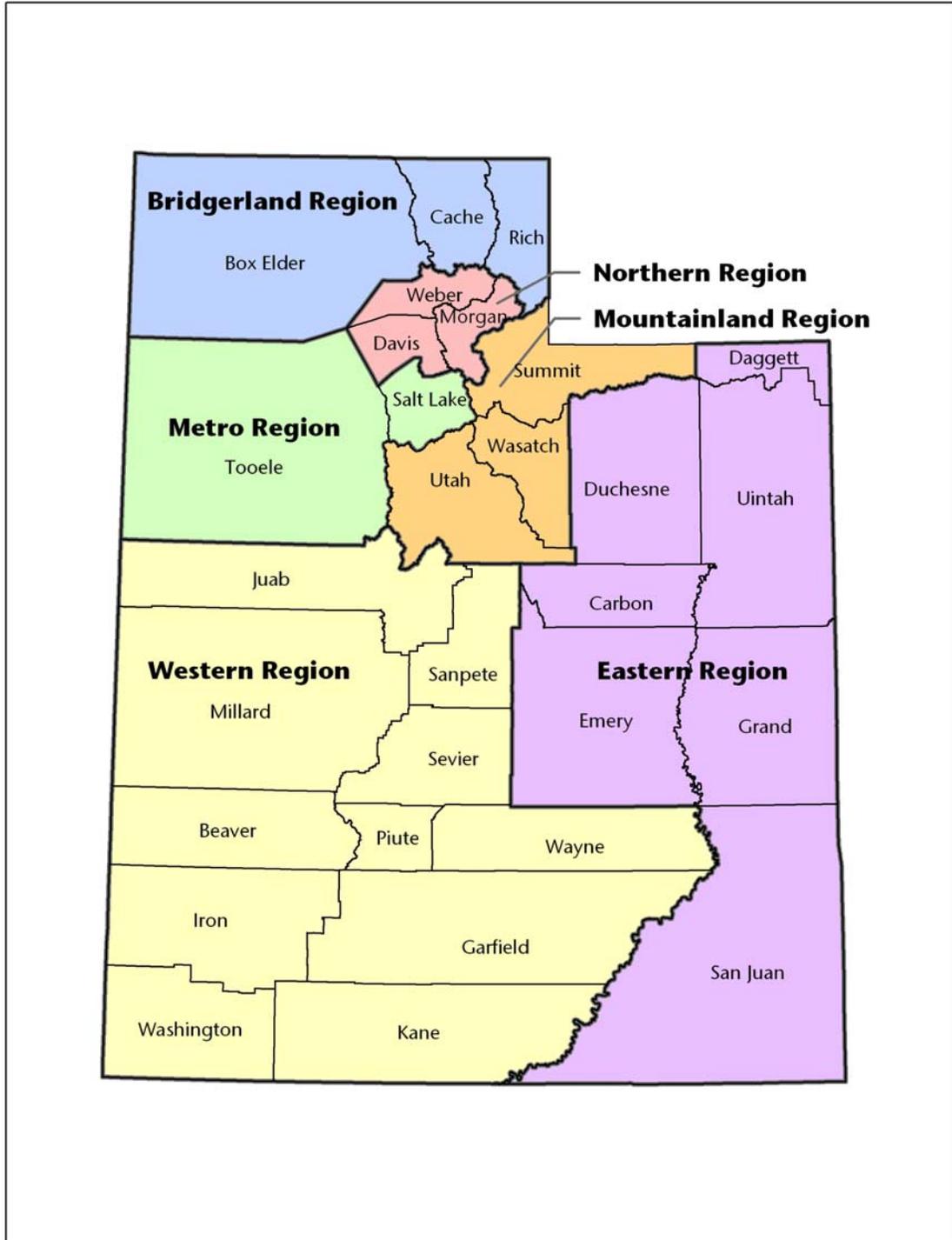
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Utah Study Regions



Out-of-School Time Program Providers Survey

In 2006, BBC Research & Consulting (BBC) and Garner Insight were contracted by the State of Utah, Office of Child Care, to assess the supply of and demand for out-of-school time programs for the state's children who are kindergarten age through 12 years. As part of this study, a survey of current out-of-school time program providers were surveyed through the mail.

This report presents the results of that survey and contains information on providers of out-of-school time youth programs in Utah.

Methodology

In early 2006, a survey instrument was sent to approximately 1,300 existing providers of out-of-school time youth programs in Utah. The providers that received the survey included family care providers, public and private elementary school-based programs, recreation centers and programs and child care centers. The Utah Office of Child Care (OCC) assisted BBC in developing the provider database.¹

Two rounds of surveys were mailed to providers and follow-up calls (up to three calls) were made to all providers in the database who failed to return surveys. A total of 494 providers returned surveys, for a response rate of 39 percent. The breakdown of the surveys received was:

- Family child care providers, 33 percent;
- Elementary school-based programs, 29 percent; and
- Child care centers, 31 percent.

The survey covered about 55 percent of the children in the state who receive out-of-school time care through family child care providers, public elementary school-based programs and child care centers.

Providers who received the survey and that did *not* provide out-of-school time youth programs at the time of the survey (but would be appropriate to do so because they are schools or child care centers) were encouraged to respond to the survey. They were asked questions about why they did not provide care, if out-of-school time programs were needed in their communities, and who should provide such care. These providers are designated as “non-providers” in this section.

It is important to note that the provider survey is not—nor was it meant to be—statistically representative of the types of out-of-school time care used by Utah families. Instead, a separate family survey was conducted to achieve statistical representation of the out-of-school time care used by Utah families.

¹ Specifically, the database included the 21st Century Learning Programs, Licensed Child Care Centers, License Exempt Child Care Centers, Youth Connections Grantees, Licensed Family Child Care Providers and Residential Certificate Providers.

The purpose of the provider survey was to understand the types of formal care and programs provided, the needs and challenges faced by providers, and why certain providers do not provide care.

Geographic representation. As shown in Exhibit I-1, the surveys that were received by providers are closely aligned with the population distribution of children kindergarten age through age 12. (A map of the regions appears before this section).

**Exhibit I-1.
Regional Representation
of Afterschool Provider
Survey**

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool
Provider Survey.

Region	Proportion of Surveys	Proportion of Population of Children 5–12
Bridgerland	9%	7%
Metro	36%	42%
Northern	21%	18%
Mountainland	18%	19%
Eastern	5%	5%
Western	11%	10%
	100%	100%

Types of Providers

This section discusses the primary types of providers who were captured in the survey, the children they serve and, for those who do not provide care, why they are not providing care. The section that follows reports survey results by provider type.

Family child care providers. Family child care providers represented the largest proportion of the surveys returned at 33 percent. They represented 34 percent of the providers of out-of-school time care responding to the survey.

The family child care providers responding to the survey collectively provide care to about 1,330 children from infants through age 12. Of these children, 32 percent, or 424, were school-age children.

Why aren't family child care providers providing care? Family child care providers represented 30 percent of the non-providers of out-of-school time care who responded to the survey. The primary reasons that these family child care providers were not providing out-of-school time care to school-age children at the time of the survey include lack of facilities (47 percent of the reason) and incompatibility with the provider's mission (20 percent)

Elementary school-based programs. Public elementary school-based programs represented 29 percent of the responses that were returned and 24 percent of providers of out-of-school time care who returned surveys. Private schools represented 3 percent of the providers who returned surveys.

The public and private school providers who completed the survey collectively provide care to 6,900 children who are infants through age 12. Eighty-eight percent, or about 6,100, of these children are school age.

Why aren't elementary schools providing care? Public elementary school-based programs represented 39 percent of the non-providers of out-of-school time care responding to the survey; private schools represented only 4 percent. The primary reasons that schools are not providing care include lack of funding (36 percent of the reason), lack of staff (24 percent) and lack of demand (20 percent).

Child care centers. Child care centers represented 31 percent of the responses that were returned and 36 percent of providers of out-of-school time care who returned surveys.

The providers who completed the survey collectively provide care to 11,300 children who are infants through age 12. Thirty-one percent, or 3,500, of these children are kindergarten through age 12.

Why aren't child care centers providing care? Child care centers represented 16 percent of the non-providers of out-of-school time care who responded to the survey. The primary reasons that child care centers are not providing care include lack of facilities (29 percent of the reason), lack of demand for care (25 percent) and lack of funding (21 percent).

Exhibit I-2 summarizes the provision of out-of-school-time care by family child care providers, elementary school-based programs and child care center survey respondents.

**Exhibit I-2.
Provision of
Out-of-School Time Care,
Child Care Centers and
Elementary school-based
programs Survey
Respondents**

	Child Care Centers	Elementary Schools	Family Child Care Providers
Total children served	11,303	6,921	1,332
School-age children served	3,517	6,061	424
Percent school-age	31%	88%	32%

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting
Afterschool Provider Survey.

Family Child Care Providers

This section describes out-of-school time care provided by family child care providers. The data reported in this section are representative of the activities of 424 children who receive out-of-school time care through family child care providers in Utah.

Whom do the families serve? The family child care providers who completed the survey collectively provide care to approximately 1,330 children who are infants through age 12. Of these children, about 424 are school-age, or about 32 percent.

Exhibit I-3 shows the proportion of children receiving out-of-school time care from family child care providers by age. Like child care centers, family child care providers mostly serve children in kindergarten or younger, in contrast to elementary school-based programs which predominantly serve school-age children.

Exhibit I-3.
Ages of Children Served
by Family Child Care
Providers

Source:
 BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool
 Provider Survey.

Ages of Children	Percent of All Children Served
Infants	18%
Toddlers	28%
Preschool	21%
Kindergarten	15%
7 yrs	7%
8 yrs	4%
9 yrs	3%
10 yrs	2%
11 yrs	1%
12 yrs	1%
12+ yrs	0%
Total	100%

Special-needs children. About 4 percent of the children who receive care by residential child care providers have special needs. Most of these providers did not specify the special types of care they have available for special-needs children, but those that did listed one-on-one tutoring.

Curricula and activities. Family child care providers were asked about the key components of their curricula. Programs in arts & crafts, recreation sports, and homework assistance were the most popular curricular offerings and were roughly equal in how frequently they are provided. On a more limited basis, family child care providers offered programs in team sports and computing. Only about 5 percent of providers offered religious or foreign-language programming, and only several offered ESL programs. Exhibit I-4 shows the most common descriptions of curriculum components.

Exhibit I-4.
Curricula/Activities Offered by Family Child Care Providers

Curricula/Activities	Primary Type of Activities
Arts activities	Crafts, some cooking and music
Recreational activities	Field trips, swimming, playgrounds, picnics
Homework assistance	Tutoring, reading assistance, homework assistance
Team sports	Soccer, basketball, relays
Computer activity	Basic skills, educational games
Foreign language	Spanish (limited)
Religious activities	Limited
ESL activities	Very limited

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

Family child care providers were also asked to report what types of specialized services they provide to families with children in their care. The most common specialized service was transportation, offered by 34 percent of the family child care providers surveyed. About 10 percent provided services for special needs children. Only a few reported services for bilingual and gifted children.

Hours and days of operation. The vast majority of family child care providers operated year-round (94 percent), providing both before- and afterschool (94 percent) and summer care (84 percent). Almost all respondents (98 percent) operated five days per week.

Exhibit I-5 shows the ranges of hours during which before and afterschool care is offered by family child care providers. Eighty-seven percent provide care until 5 p.m. in the evening and over a third provide care until 6 p.m. Care is more limited after 6 p.m., and none of the family child care providers responding to the survey provide care during the late evening and early morning hours (e.g., for parents who work night shifts). The hours for summer care almost mirror the hours before/afterschool hours offered.

**Exhibit I-5.
Primary Hours and Days
Care is Provided,
Before and Afterschool
Care, Family Child Care
Providers**

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool
Provider Survey.

Primary Days and Hours Care is Provided	Percent of Providers
Morning	
6 a.m. and earlier	55%
Beginning at 7 a.m.	36%
Afternoon/evening	
Until 5 p.m.	87%
Until 6 p.m.	37%
After 6 p.m.	6%
Late evening/early morning	0%
Days per week	
Monday through Friday	100%

Ninety-eight percent of family child care providers provide care five days per week, Monday through Friday. Just four providers reported that they provide care Saturday or Sunday.

Vacancies and wait lists. On average, family child care providers reported being about 85 percent full.

As shown in Exhibit I-6 on the following page, the Northern Region had a disproportionately high number and percentage of vacant spaces. The Metro Region saw the opposite trend, a disproportionately low number of vacancies given its share of the population of school-age children. The Bridgerland and Eastern Regions were more modestly disproportionately high in their number of vacancies, and the Western Region was roughly proportionate to the population distribution in its number of vacancies.

The “proportion of population” column shows the percentage of school-age children by region, and should be used to compare the vacancy distribution with the distribution of school-age children statewide.

**Exhibit I-6.
Vacancies for School-Age Children by Region, Family Child Care Providers**

Region	Number of Vacancies	Percent of All Vacancies	Proportion of Population of Children 5–12
Bridgerland	14	14%	7%
Metro	20	19%	42%
Northern	39	38%	18%
Mountainland	10	10%	19%
Eastern	8	8%	5%
Western	<u>12</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>10%</u>
	103	100%	100%

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

Family child care providers reported much shorter wait lists than child care centers. Those family child care providers reporting waitlists for school-age children had an average of 4 school-age children on their waitlists in 2005 and 2006.

Rates. Exhibit I-7 shows the average rates of family child care providers on a per-child basis. As demonstrated by the exhibit, summer and intersession programs are generally more costly than before and afterschool programs. Child care centers were more expensive than family child care providers on all bases except a monthly basis.

**Exhibit I-7.
Average Rates of Care, Family Child Care Providers**

Average Rates of Care	Before and After		
	School	Summer	Intersession
Hour	\$2.69	\$2.97	\$2.80
Day	\$13.12	\$18.43	\$18.09
Week	\$70.20	\$88.77	\$85.04
Month	\$296.92	\$350.00	\$361.43
Season	N/A	\$1,020.00	N/A

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

A little more than one-third of the family child care programs provided sibling discounts, about half the rate of child care centers that offer sibling discounts.

Funding. Nineteen percent of family child care providers report that they receive public or private funding, much less than child care centers reporting some sort of funding.² For those providers that do receive funding, the additional funding makes up an average of 17 percent of their revenues.

Of the family child care providers surveyed, only federal and state contributions were reported as additional sources of funding, and no respondents reported funding from local governments, foundations or corporations. Federal and state funding among all the respondents totaled about \$2,100 and \$6,000 respectively. It is important to note that these dollars do not reflect subsidies that families receive as part of subsidized care programs.

Elementary school-based programs

This section is about the type of out-of-school time care provided by elementary school-based programs. The data reported in this section are representative of the activities of approximately 6,000 children who receive out-of-school time care through public and private elementary school-based programs in Utah. The data are mostly representative of public school care, as private schools provide relatively little out-of-school time care.

Whom do the schools serve? The elementary school surveys represented the care of about 6,100 school-age children. Exhibit I-9 shows the proportion of children receiving out-of-school time care from elementary school-based programs by age. The schools mostly serve children kindergarten age through age 10.

**Exhibit I-8.
Ages of Children Served
by Elementary school-
based programs**

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool
Provider Survey.
Note: Data are only provided for schools that
reported children enrolled by age. Therefore,
the proportion of school-age children
reported in this table differs from the overall
percentage of 89 percent.

Ages of Children	Percent of All Children Served
Infants	0%
Toddlers	2%
Preschool	4%
Kindergarten	14%
7 yrs	13%
8 yrs	15%
9 yrs	15%
10 yrs	14%
11 yrs	11%
12 yrs	7%
12+ yrs	6%
Total	100%

² It should be noted that family child care centers operate as a for-profit business.

The drop in the proportion of children served who are 11 and older is interesting, as it coincides with the age at which parents start to feel comfortable leaving their children alone (as identified in the *Supply and Demand of Out-of-School Time Youth Programs Report*, January 2007). The family survey also found that children between the ages of 10 and 12 are most likely to attend religion-based programs when they are out of school.

Special-needs children. Sixteen percent of the children who receive care from elementary school-based programs have special needs, compared to 10 percent for child care centers.

Curricula and activities. On average, elementary school-based programs are much less likely than child care centers to provide transportation. Where the schools provide specialized services, these tend to be more focused on special needs/ESL/tutoring. Only nine of the schools reported having transportation services (about 10 percent of all schools, which compares with 84 percent of child care centers).

The schools were asked about the key components of their curricula. Exhibit I-9 shows the most common descriptions of curriculum components. In general, the elementary school-based programs are less likely to provide field trip activities than are child care centers and much more likely to provide artistic (dance, arts, theater) and academic activities (tutoring, homework assistance, beginning foreign language, computers). Both child care centers and elementary school-based programs provide very limited ESL services.

Exhibit I-9.
Curricula/Activities Offered by Elementary school-based programs

Curricula/Activities	Primary Type of Activities
Recreational activities	Recess, physical education
Team sports	Basketball, soccer
Arts activities	Drama, dance, music, art
Religious activities	None
Homework assistance	Daily homework assistance/tutoring
Foreign language	Spanish plus various other languages
ESL activities	Very limited
Computer activity	Keyboarding, computer free time, basic skills

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

Hours and days of operation. Only 16 percent of the elementary school providers in the survey reported providing year-round care, although 34 percent offer some type of programming during summer months (e.g., activities between 10 a.m. and noon). Just a handful offer intersession care.

Compared to child care centers, elementary school-based programs offer less flexible schedules, starting their care later and not extending it as long. No elementary school-based programs reported providing care before 6 a.m., and most started care at 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Afternoon hours ended between 4 and

6 p.m. Eighty-percent of elementary school-based programs provide care for all weekdays. For the 20 percent that does not, care is generally provided Monday through Thursday, but not on Friday.

Vacancies and wait lists. On average, elementary school programs were about 97 percent full at the time of the survey.

Exhibit I-10 shows the vacancies by region. Like child care centers, the Metro Region had disproportionately high vacancies, along with the Bridgerland Region. The Northern Region’s vacancies were very disproportionately low.

The “proportion of population” column shows the percentage of school-age children by region, and should be used to compare the vacancy distribution with the distribution of school-age children statewide.

Exhibit I-10.
Vacancies for School-Age Children by Region, Elementary school-based programs

Region	Number of Vacancies	Percent of All Vacancies	Proportion of Population of Children 5–12
Bridgerland	50	13%	7%
Metro	221	59%	42%
Northern	20	5%	18%
Mountainland	71	19%	19%
Eastern	0	0%	5%
Western	10	3%	10%
	372	100%	100%

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

Only 18 percent of elementary school programs reported having a wait list. The average size of the wait list at elementary school-based programs was 12 children.

Rates. The data on rates reported by the elementary school-based programs was too wide-ranging and sporadic to draw conclusions about average rates.³ About one-third of the elementary programs give sibling discounts.

Funding. Sixty-three percent of schools report that they receive public or private funding for out-of-school time programs. It is important to note that these percentages are derived from survey responses and, as such, do not represent actual federal funds allocated to school-based providers statewide. The funding makes up a significant amount of program revenue, averaging 85 percent of total revenues (many schools reported that the funding made up 100 percent of their program revenues).

³ School-based programs are, in general, non-profit.

Federal funding is a more significant source of revenues for schools than for child care centers. Elementary school-based programs also receive a higher amount of funding per student from state and federal sources than do child care centers.

Center Child Care Providers

This section is about the type of out-of-school time care provided by child care centers. The data reported in this section are representative of the activities of approximately 3,500 children who receive out-of-school time care at child care centers throughout Utah.

Whom do the centers serve? Child care centers are much more likely to serve infants and preschoolers than school-age children. Exhibit I-11 shows the proportion of children to whom care is provided by age.

Exhibit I-11.
Ages of Children Served
by Child Care Centers

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool
Provider Survey.
Note: Data are only provided for child care
centers that reported children enrolled by
age. Therefore, the proportion of school-age
children reported in this table differs from the
overall percentage of 31 percent.

Ages of Children	Percent of All Children Served
Infants	12%
Toddlers	22%
Preschool	26%
Kindergarten	15%
7 yrs	7%
8 yrs	5%
9 yrs	4%
10 yrs	3%
11 yrs	2%
12 yrs	3%
12+ yrs	0%
Total	100%

Special-needs children. Collectively, about 10 percent of the children who receive care by the child care providers have special needs. The majority of the providers did not specify the special types of care they have available for special-needs children, other than individual tutoring and one-on-one work.

Curricula and activities. Providers were asked about the key components of their curricula. Recreational and sport-oriented programs are by far the most common in child care centers' out-of-school time program curriculums. Children also participated in arts & crafts and dance activities and, on a more limited basis, homework and tutoring assistance and computer work. Foreign-language and ESL programs were fairly limited, and almost no centers reported they include religious programming in their curricula. Exhibit I-12 on the following page shows the most common descriptions of curriculum components.

Exhibit I-12.
Curricula/Activities Offered by Child Care Centers

Curricula/Activities	Primary Type of Activities
Recreational activities	Field trips, swimming, bowling, dance, hiking, playgrounds
Team sports	Soccer, basketball, some football
Arts activities	Arts & crafts, some theater
Religious activities	Very limited
Homework assistance	Tutoring, reading assistance, homework assistance
Foreign language	Spanish
ESL activities	Very limited
Computer activity	Computer time/basic skills/games

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

Child care providers were also asked to report what types of specialized services they provide to families with children in their care. About 14 percent of the services provided include bilingual, Spanish/English programs. The most significant “specialized service” was transportation, representing 84 percent of the specialized services provided.

Hours and days of operation. The vast majority of the child care providers operated year-round (86 percent), providing both before and afterschool (96 percent) and summer care (92 percent).

Exhibit I-13 shows the ranges of hours during which before and afterschool care is offered by child care centers. Ninety-eight percent provide care until 5 p.m. in the evening and most provide care until 6 p.m. Care is more limited after 6 p.m. and only a handful provide care during the late evening and early morning hours (e.g., for parents who work night shifts). The hours for summer care are similar.

Exhibit I-13.
Primary Hours and Days Care is Provided, Before- and Afterschool Care, Child Care Centers

Source:
 BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

Primary Days and Hours Care is Provided	Percent of Providers
Morning	
6 a.m. and earlier	42%
Beginning at 7 a.m.	53%
Afternoon/evening	
Until 6 p.m.	78%
After 6 p.m.	31%
Late evening/early morning	4%
Days per week	
Monday through Friday	99%

Ninety-nine percent of child care centers provide care five days per week, Monday through Friday. Just four providers reported that they provide care on Saturday.

Vacancies and wait lists. On average, child care center programs for children age kindergarten through 12 are about 82 percent full.

As shown in Exhibit I-14, the Metro Region had the highest number and percentage of vacant spaces. The Metro, Mountainland and Western Regions had disproportionately high vacancies. The Northern Region had very disproportionately low vacancies.

The “proportion of population” column shows the percentage of school-age children by region, and should be used to compare the vacancy distribution with the distribution of school-age children statewide.

Exhibit I-14.
Vacancies for School-Age Children by Region, Child Care Centers

Region	Number of Vacancies	Percent of All Vacancies	Proportion of Population of Children 5–12
Bridgerland	16	2%	7%
Metro	454	55%	42%
Northern	43	5%	18%
Mountainland	211	26%	19%
Eastern	6	1%	5%
Western	<u>96</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>10%</u>
	826	100%	100%

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

Child care centers reported an average of 11 school-age children on their wait lists in 2005 and 2006.

A little more than two-thirds of the centers provided sibling discounts. For almost all the centers that reported giving a discount, the amount discounted was 10 percent.

Funding. Thirty-two percent of child care centers report that they receive public or private funding. For those centers that do receive funding, the additional funding makes up 26 percent of their revenues on average, suggesting this funding is an important part of operations.

Exhibit I-15 shows the collective amount of funding reportedly received by the child care centers in their last fiscal year. It is important to note that these percentages are derived from survey responses and, as such, do not represent actual federal funds allocated to such providers statewide. As demonstrated by the exhibit, state and federal funding sources are by far the largest, providing almost \$1 million support. It is important to note that these dollars do not reflect subsidies that families receive as part of subsidized care programs.

**Exhibit I-15.
Additional Sources
of Funding,
Child Care Centers**

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting
Afterschool Provider Survey.

Additional Sources of Funding	Cumulative	Per Child Served
Federal	\$403,199	\$36
State	\$494,648	\$44
Local	\$35,000	\$3
Foundations	\$261,702	\$23
Corporations	\$12,000	\$1
Other fundraising activities	\$271,100	\$24

Recreation Centers

Thirteen recreational and special-needs providers that offer out-of-school time care submitted surveys. Because their sample is not large enough from which to draw reliable conclusions, the data from these surveys are only summarized in this section.

The surveys demonstrate, however, that Boys & Girls Clubs programs are significant providers of care in the state’s more urbanized areas (two of the programs collectively serve more than 1,000 children). They also receive more federal funding than other providers, averaging \$450,000 per regional program.

Their hours and activities offered are similar to those provided by elementary school-based programs, with half of the respondents providing their programs year-round. (Recreation-based programs held at elementary schools did not provide year-round care, where non-school recreation programs did). None of the programs maintained wait lists, and many had adequate vacancies.

The two challenges consistently faced by the centers were adequate funding and transportation.

Providers’ Opinions about Care

Ninety-two percent of all child care centers said they perceive a need for care. The vast majority of providers identified the greatest need as before and afterschool care for children between the ages of 5 or 6 through age 12. A handful identified a need for summer care and one provider noted “the need for evening and weekend care is growing.”

Ninety-two percent of elementary school providers said they perceived a need for care. Like the child care centers, the vast majority identified a need for out-of-school time care for children ages 5 or 6 years through age 12, followed by preschool care.

Eighty-two percent of family child care providers said they perceived a need for child care. Once again, the vast majority of these providers said the greatest need existed for children ages 5 or 6 though age 12.

Nonproviders who responded to the survey identified a much lower need for care, with 66 percent saying that they perceived a need for out-of-school time care.⁴

Challenges in Providing Care

Providers were asked about the challenges they face in providing care. The “challenges” question was posed as an open-ended question, and providers were able to write in their responses (rather than select from a variety of responses). The challenge most frequently cited by family child care providers was the difficulty of serving children of varying ages. Many respondents linked this problem to challenges in finding activities/material to entertain all ages and also to disciplinary issues. Transportation for field trips was a major concern of a large number of family child care providers. High costs, low pay and inadequate funding were recurring concerns as well. Finally, many respondents mentioned capacity limitations imposed by the state as a major challenge to their successful operation.

Exhibit I-16 on the following page demonstrates the frequency of reported challenges in providing family child care.

**Exhibit I-16.
Challenges in Providing
Out-of-School Time Care,
Family Child Care
Providers**

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool
Provider Survey.

Challenges	Percentage of Responses
Activities/variety/keeping children entertained	13%
Capacity limitations imposed by state	11%
Challenges caused by varying ages	19%
Cost of running program/staff salaries	14%
Discipline/behavior of children	5%
Equipment	6%
Facilities	7%
Funding/support	4%
Qualified teachers	3%
Scheduling	4%
Transportation	14%
Total	100%

For elementary school-based programs, the top challenges were funding and finding quality teachers. Another top need was scheduling, largely around parents picking up their children on time. The facility needs comments were mostly related to having adequate space for different age group activities.

⁴ Nonproviders are family child care centers, elementary schools, child care centers and recreation-based programs that were sent surveys but do not currently provide out-of-school time care. The first page of survey questions was meant for both providers and nonproviders.

Exhibit I-17.
Challenges in Providing Out-of-School Time Care, Elementary School-based Programs

Challenges	Percentage of Responses
Activities/variety/keeping children entertained	4%
Cost of running program/staff salaries/funding	31%
Discipline/behavior of children	3%
Facilities	13%
Qualified teachers	24%
Scheduling/parents being on time	19%
Transportation	7%
Total	100%

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

From these comments it appears that parents use the school-based programs differently from the programs offered by family child care providers or child care centers. Families appear to use the schools on more informal, drop-in basis. This creates scheduling issues for the schools, and they frequently remarked that scheduling and parent cooperation around scheduling were significant challenges. As one provider wrote: “Users change daily so [maintaining] a program is not very feasible.”

Child care center providers identified numerous challenges in providing care. Exhibit I-18 shows the challenges by type, of all of the challenges identified. The top challenges include finding and keeping qualified teachers, cost/funding, providing transportation and covering transportation costs and providing enough and appropriate activities for children. Specifically, transportation concerns included providing/the high cost of busing, UTA/bus routes not far-reaching and gas prices increasing.

Exhibit I-18.
Challenges in Providing Out-of-School Time Care, Child Care Centers

Challenges	Percentage of Responses
Activities/variety/keeping children entertained	12%
Competition from unlicensed programs/schools	5%
Cost of running program/staff salaries	8%
Discipline/behavior of children	6%
Equipment	5%
Facilities	14%
Funding/support	8%
Qualified teachers	19%
Scheduling	4%
Special needs children	2%
Transportation	16%
Total	100%

Source: BBC Research & Consulting Afterschool Provider Survey.

Who Should Provide Care?

Exhibit I-24 shows how parents (from the *Supply and Demand of Out-of-School Time Youth Programs Report*, January 2007), child care centers, school-based programs and family child care providers responded to the survey question of “Who should be providing care?”

As shown in the exhibit, elementary school-based programs were the top choice across all respondents. City/county programs, private schools and recreation centers were other popular choices in some categories.

**Exhibit I-24.
Who should be providing care?**

Source:
BBC Research & Consulting
Afterschool Provider Survey.

	Child Care Centers Replied	Elementary Schools Replied	Family Child Care Providers Replied	Parents Replied
Child care center	17%	3%	17%	2%
Church/synagogue	7%	12%	6%	7%
City/county	9%	18%	6%	19%
Housing/social services provider	3%	5%	2%	0%
Institution of higher education	4%	5%	4%	1%
Other providers	0%	0%	4%	15%
Private school	16%	13%	8%	4%
Public elementary school	25%	27%	19%	37%
Recreation center	8%	5%	17%	15%
Family/home-based provider	12%	11%	16%	1%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Family child care providers, school-based programs and child care centers offer different out-of-school time care functions. Family child care providers and child care centers have more flexible hours, providing care much earlier and somewhat later than do elementary school-based programs. They are also much more likely to operate year-round, 94 and 86 percent respectively, compared to 16 percent of elementary school-based programs. Family child care providers' and child care centers' programs are largely recreation- and activity-based, while elementary school-based programs have more academic-type programming (tutoring, homework assistance, foreign languages).
- Although there is a high perceived need for care among providers, the number of school-age children on wait lists for out-of-school time programs is fairly low: wait lists for school-age students at school-based programs, child care centers and family child care providers averaged 12, 11 and 4 respectively. Many family child care providers cited capacity limitations as major challenges for successful operation, but survey data suggest this concern primarily involves preschool-age children and relatively few school-age children.
- Child care centers are less likely and family child care providers are much less likely to rely on public funding than school-based or recreation- and club-based programs. Federal funding is a significant source of funding for the school-based and recreation/club program providers. It should be noted that family child care providers and child care centers are largely for-profit operators.
- The providers who chose to respond to the survey reported many challenges in providing out-of-school time care. Among family child care providers, the most commonly cited challenges were caring for children of different ages, keeping children entertained, dealing with the costs and low returns of child care and providing transportation. For school-based programs, the top challenges were finding qualified teachers, managing program costs and scheduling issues, with many providers noting that parental cooperation around scheduling needs to improve. For child care centers, the major challenges are finding qualified teachers, providing transportation and managing the costs of running their programs.