

# Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate



## In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- **Monthly Spotlight:** Green Bay Eisenhower Elementary
- **OST Toolbox:** Afterschool Today Spring Edition
- **Taking Action for Afterschool:** 21st Century Funding in jeopardy, Joint Finance Committee budget hearings continue
- **WOSTA Updates:** Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Trainings offered in May for Mental Health Awareness month
- **OST Policy and State News:** DPI takes a stand against Federal DEI requirement, Lightbulb Funding awards announced
- **Federal News:** Administrative directive for 2025 cuts on its way

## Monthly Program Spotlight

### *Building Brighter Futures through Community & Enrichment*

At Eisenhower Elementary in Green Bay, an afterschool program is making a big difference for kids through its dynamic blend of academic support, creative enrichment, and strong community partnerships. This 21st Century Community Learning Center is a collaborative effort between the Green Bay Area Public Schools and the YMCA of Greater Green Bay. [Read more.](#)



Interested in being featured by WOSTA in a program spotlight?  
Please sign-up using the form below. We'd love to come meet you!

[Featured Program Sign-Up](#)

### The OST Toolbox

- Afterschool Today Magazine: [Spring 2025 Edition](#) is available
- The 2025 Lights on Afterschool [poster contest is officially open!](#)
- [Understanding Boys Mental Health](#) - a new look at the mental health of boys
- Looking for STEM Activities: [Check out this New Resource](#)
- Policy Pulse: [Registration Link](#) - Every second Friday at 1 pm, Erik Peterson from the Afterschool Alliance, will recap the latest policy developments, what we know (or don't know!) about how they may impact afterschool and summer programs. [Submit your questions](#) in advance so we know what's top of mind for you.
- Need a playbook for funding? Check this resource for discovering new revenue streams: [After\\$chool Funding: The relationships that matter](#)

## Taking Action for Afterschool

- 21st Century Community Learning Center [grants are in jeopardy](#) for 2026! Your [organization can weigh-in](#) on the importance of this federal program for Wisconsin's kids. Individuals can [express their viewpoints here](#).
  - The Wisconsin Committee on Joint Finance (JFC) has two more hearings at Hayward High School (28th) and Northcentral Technical College in Wausau (29th). Details: [locations and dates](#). [Top issues raised at first two JFC Budget hearings](#).
  - [VOTERS SAY: Afterschool Programs are a Necessity](#)
  - [Six Key Reasons to Invest in Afterschool and Summer Programs](#)  
Proven to resonate across party lines when advocating for state funding to expand learning opportunities for children and youth.
  - [Advocating for afterschool](#) raises awareness of its benefits, and our new [Afterschool Champions Guide](#) can help you engage families, decisionmakers, stakeholders, and youth to become advocates themselves.
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## WOSTA Updates

- Check out all [WOSTA calendar events right here](#)
  - Question, Persuade & Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Trainings for youth work professionals scheduled during Mental Health Awareness Month in May. [Check out dates and registration information](#).
  - In case you missed it - new webinar recordings available on YouTube:
    - [AI Adventures: Empowering OST STEM with ChatGPT](#)
    - [Cultivating Connections: Enhancing Social Skills and Peer Relationships in Youth Programs](#)
    - [Regulate, Relate & Reason: Straightforward Approaches to Challenging Behaviors](#)
    - [A Virtual Adventure in Graphing with Daphne](#)
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**Congratulations to Dr. Jill Underly** for winning her second term as Wisconsin's State Superintendent.

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## OST Policy and News

### Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [Key takeaways from Child Care Counts survey](#): As many as ¼ of Childcare Programs could close.
- [Wisconsin DPI pushes back against USDE certification request](#)
  - [Read about potential impact on schools in Wisconsin](#)
- From the Governor's budget: [Four proven ways to invest in children](#)
- The DPI recently allocated \$730,000 in federal grant funding to support 101 program sites through [Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers](#). This additional funding, an increase for



current grantees/sites, was allocated through the [LightBULB \(Building Unity through Learning and Belonging Fund\)](#) and will focus on critical areas of academic improvement, transportation challenges, and fostering a greater sense of belonging for students, and strengthening family engagement.

- [Amid Federal Threats, We Must Protect Our Public Libraries](#)
- DPI launches [new website](#) to track federal funding impact on Wisconsin schools, libraries
- [Report that Head Start could end alarms providers](#)

## Federal Policy Updates & National News:

- Stay in the Loop: [Afterschool Alliance Update Email](#)

## Congressional Activity

- **Federal Budget and Appropriations:**
  - **FY25 Cuts Coming** The Administration announced it will be sending a list of cuts to Congress for fiscal year 2025. Congress can pass these cuts with a simple majority. The letter is expected April 29.
  - **FY26 Funding Requests:** Congress has started working on the FY26 budget. Groups can request funding for key programs like 21st Century Community Learning Centers and AmeriCorps through May 23. *Check your Members of Congress' websites for forms.*
  - **Reconciliation Process:** Congress passed a budget blueprint calling for tax cuts, increased defense spending, and \$4 billion—\$1.5 trillion in unspecified cuts. This could impact programs like school meals, SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid. An [Afterschool Alliance action alert is still live](#)
- **New Bills Introduced:**
  - **Child Care Act:** A bipartisan bill would help families pay for child care through the tax code. [Get the details.](#)
  - **Youth Workforce Readiness Act:** This bill [supports career education](#) in afterschool and summer programs starting in elementary school.

## Administrative Updates

- **President's Budget:** A summary of the President's FY26 budget is expected this month, with the full proposal in May. Stay tuned for an Afterschool Alliance campaign website to counter cuts to programs that impact children and youth.
- **HHS Budget Proposal:** Reports suggest a proposed \$40 billion cut to the Department of Health and Human Services for FY26. While mainly focused on health programs, it includes eliminating Head Start. Child care funding (CCDBG) is expected to remain flat.
- **AmeriCorps Changes:** The National Civilian Conservation Corps (NCCC) has been abruptly shut down, with members sent home. Other AmeriCorps programs may also be at risk, though details are still unclear. Advocacy groups are urging action to protect these programs—[reach out to your members of Congress](#) to voice your opinion.

- **Education Funding:** The Department of Education has ended extensions for ESSER (COVID relief funds for schools).
- **DEI Crackdown in K-12 Schools:** The administration is pressuring states to end diversity programs in public schools or risk losing federal funding for low-income students. Legal challenges are underway, with a key case heard last week in New Hampshire.

### National News

- **Kids and Media:** According to [Pew Research](#), most teens use social media and have a smartphone, and nearly half say they're online almost constantly.
- [Demand Remains High, but Afterschool Programs Worry for Their Futures](#)
- [State attorneys general and Gov. Shapiro sue Trump administration for halting COVID school aid](#)
- [Defending Ed. Dept. Cuts, Linda McMahon Says It's Time to 'Do Something Different'](#)
- [Federal funding cuts cancel Dakota Dreams camps](#)
- [Head Start zeroed out in Trump's preliminary budget plan](#)
- [Alabama senate committee advances record \\$12.1 billion education package](#)



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