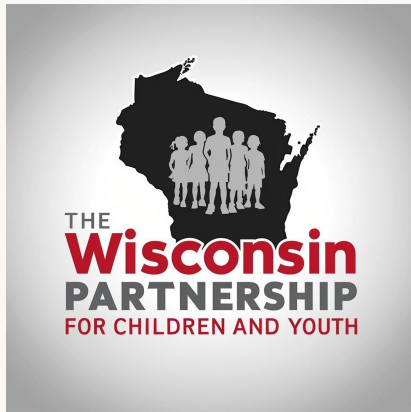


# Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

## Wisconsin Partnership for Children and Youth



The Wisconsin Partnership for Children and Youth's quarterly meeting was held on March 12. Check out the slides from the call [HERE](#).

### In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- **Monthly Spotlight:** The Building for Kids Children's Museum
- **OST Toolbox:** Six Reasons to Invest in Afterschool & Summer
- **Taking Action for Afterschool:** Joint Finance Committee announces budget hearings
- **WOSTA Updates:** New resource for STEM learning
- **OST Policy and State News:** WI Boys & Girls Club announces, Youth of the Year, Cline name Afterschool Ambassador for WI
- **Federal News:** Trump orders Education to wind down

### Monthly Program Spotlight *The Building for Kids Children's Museum*

More than just a play space, the Building for Kids Children's Museum in Appleton, WI, is a leader in out-of-school time (OST) programming. Through Explorer Camps, STEM education, and hands-on exhibits, the museum provides enriching experiences for children beyond the school day. [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

- [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.
- Looking for STEM Activities: [Check out this new resource](#)
- DPI Trauma Sensitive Schools Spring Free Webinar: Monday, April 14, 2025, 1:00pm – 2:30 pm. [Flyer](#)
- Policy Pulse - [Registration link](#) Every second Friday at noon ET, our own Senior VP of Policy, Erik Peterson, 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.
- Afterschool Programs Strengthen the Economy: [Read the Fact Sheet](#)
- Need a playbook for funding? Check this resource for discovering new revenue streams: [After\\$chool Funding: The relationships that matter](#)

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## Taking Action for Afterschool

- The Wisconsin Committee on Joint Finance (JFC) has announced [locations and dates](#) for their budget hearings around the state.
- Youth Voice Week here, March 24-28, use [this toolkit](#) to learn how to

- raise the voice of our young people.
  - Learn how you can support [Healthy School Meals for All](#) in Wisconsin
  - **Federal funding for schools in jeopardy:** read this update from the [Department of Public Instruction](#)
  - **Advocacy made simple:** Please take a moment to [thank Congress for supporting afterschool](#) and summer learning while urging them to continue supporting these essential programs. With upcoming funding decisions for Fiscal Year 2026, it's critical to advocate for investments in 21st CCLC, the Child Care Development Block Grant, and AmeriCorps to ensure more children have access to quality programs.
  - **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](#)
  - WOSTA has published a new [ebook on Mental Health & Wellness](#). This resource is packed full of high quality material for practitioners.
  - **The Benefits of WOSTA Membership:** Becoming a member of the Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance is FREE and members receive discount codes for reduced registration to the Alternative Pathway courses. [Link to Join](#).
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## OST Policy and News

### Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [Boys & Girls Club reveals 'Youth of the Year' award winner](#)
- [Cline selected as Wisconsin's 2025 Afterschool Ambassador](#)
- [Cornell School Board - After-school is rapidly outgrowing space](#)
- [YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of the Northwoods team up to expand services](#)
- [Wisconsin child care costs soar, but thousands miss out on state aid](#)
- DPI launches [new website](#) to track federal funding impact on Wisconsin schools, libraries
- [Service Project Aims to End Mental Health Stigma](#)
- [Breaking down the Childcare Crisis from DCF](#)
- [State superintendent urges focus on critical public education funding amid legislative distractions](#)

### National News & Legislative Updates:

- Stay in the Loop: [Afterschool Alliance Update Email](#)
- **Administrative updates:**
  - **New Executive Order Would Dismantle U.S. Department of Education:** The Trump Administration has issued an Executive Order directing the closure of the U.S. Department of Education, raising concerns about the future of federal afterschool funding. While eliminating the Department would

require Congressional action, any restructuring could impact the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program, which serves 1.4 million students nationwide. [Read on to learn more about the potential changes and what they mean for afterschool and summer learning programs.](#)

- **ED Firings Impact OST Programs:** On March 11, the U.S. Department of Education fired 1,300 staff, with the biggest cuts to Federal Student Aid and the Office for Civil Rights. Nearly all staff at the Institute of Education Sciences were dismissed. While Title-funded programs remain unaffected, several 21st CCLC program officers have resigned or retired, raising concerns about future impacts. A lawsuit was filed Friday by parents and disability rights groups, and a federal judge has ordered reinstatement for recently fired probationary employees.
- **New Executive Order Targets IMLS;** Late Friday, President Trump signed an executive order to eliminate the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), reducing its functions to the legal minimum. While IMLS is congressionally authorized and received \$294.8 million in FY 2024, the lack of program-specific allocations in the FY 2025 continuing resolution may ease funding cuts. More details are available from our partners at the [Association for Science and Technology Centers](#) (ASTC) and the [American Library Association](#), which highlights IMLS-funded programs like STEM education, internet access, and veterans' telehealth services.
- **Joint Address to Congress:** On Tuesday, March 4th President Trump delivered his Joint Address to Congress. While there were no direct mentions of education policy, several related social issues were addressed, including the President's opposition to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies, critical race theory in schools, and transgender participation in women's sports.
- **Congressional Budget updates:** President Trump signed the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, ensuring government funding through September, but not without significant budget shifts. Unlike a "clean" continuing resolution that merely extends funding deadlines, this bill includes targeted spending changes. Non-defense programs saw a \$13 billion reduction, while defense spending increased by \$6 billion, resulting in a net \$7 billion cut—just 0.1% of total federal spending.
- [Defense Dept. Schools Pause STEM Club for Girls and Pride Clubs](#)
- [Ex-officials: Cuts may boost waste, fraud](#)
- [‘Going for Blood’: With Half of its Staff Cut, Many Wonder How Ed Dept. Will Function](#)
- [School districts rely on Medicaid funding](#)
- [The Opportunity Project analyzes ways to try to make students less chronically absent](#)
- [How Afterschool is Critical to School Day Attendance](#)
- [How much do afterschool and summer programs really cost?](#)



- [Title I Funding in Limbo: What's at Stake for Black Students](#)
  - [How states rank on federal revenue](#)
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Spring Elections are right around the corner Tuesday, April 1st  
Make sure to inform yourself about local school board candidates as their voice can have an impact on afterschool and summer programs for schools.

Read about the two candidates for State Superintendent:

[Jill Underly](#)

[Brittany Kinser](#)

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## Meet our new statewide organizer for Afterschool and Summer, Jackie Scott



*Hello,*

*If you haven't seen me at your program site, hopefully you will soon!*

*Being in the field, you know how important OST programs are, but how often do you find yourself having to explain this to others? The stories of OST programs are not widely known or celebrated like they should be, as an organizer, I'm working to change this. I need your help in telling the stories of your programs. I'm prioritizing getting to as many programs as I can to ensure the wider community, including key decision makers, understands the value of OST programs. Please, reach out to me to schedule a visit so I can tell this story.*

*Want to do more for advocacy? We know Wisconsin is in the minority of states that do not fund out-of-school time programming. You can advocate for Wisconsin to join the majority by sharing your story with the Joint Finance Committee. In person hearing will take place in Kaukauna, West Allis, Hayward, and Wausau. Can't make it in person? You can submit your comments online as well.*

*Have questions, ideas, or something else? I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Thanks for all you do to make our communities better places.*

*Jackie Scott  
State Organizer  
Wisconsin Youth Company*

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## Contact Us.

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<https://www.wosta.org/>

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