



Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

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- OST Policy and News: CR Update, Social Media & Afterschool Funding

Monthly Program Spotlight

Cultivating Young Writers in Madison

Simpson Street Free Press (SSFP) in Madison, Wisconsin, is a vibrant community dedicated to literacy and academic growth. This unique program, likened to a "one-room schoolhouse," lets older students mentor younger ones, creating a collaborative environment. Simpson Street Free Press is more than an after-school program—it's a nurturing space where young minds thrive and long-term friendships form. [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

- 21st CCLC Coordinator and staff are invited to attend a **Regional Community of Practice Workshops on Sustainability** that will be held around the state. The next Workshop is January 16 in Medford, WI from 9am to Noon. [Register here.](#)
- Department of Education Series on blending and braiding funding: virtual session January 16- **Strategies Leveraging Nonprofit Organization Resources and Supports.** [Register Here.](#)
- [2024-2025 Engage Every Student Recognition Program:](#) Application must be submitted through the online submission form by 11:59 p.m. on January 31, 2025.

Taking Action for Afterschool

- WOSTA supports the following budget requests for out-of-school time programs in Wisconsin:
 - DPI's request for \$20 million for out-of-school time programs to address chronic absenteeism.

- A request from Madison Out of School Time for a \$20 million grant program through the Department of Children and Families to expand access to out-of-school time experiences.
 - A request from WOSTA/Marshfield Clinic for \$13 million to address children's mental wellness in out of school time programs.
 - [Contact the governor's office](#) to let him know that you support increased funding for out of school time programs.
 - The [Wisconsin Partnership for Children and Youth](#) had its first meeting via Zoom on December 11th. A diverse group of 45 advocates from around the state got updates on afterschool and summer policy and discussed the priorities of school age children in out of school time. We are looking for more supporters of out-of-school time programs and welcome you to [sign up here!](#)
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WOSTA Updates

- **Advocating for afterschool** is an important way to raise awareness for your program and the opportunities and benefits they provide to youth and to the community. Use our new [Afterschool Champions](#) guide to identify and connect with families, decisionmakers, stakeholders and youth—and turn them into afterschool champions, too.
 - WOSTA has published a new [ebook on Mental Health & Wellness](#). This resource is packed full of high quality material for practitioners.
 - Join the upcoming webinar: Unlocking Resilience: Tools to Help Children and Youth Cope with Anxiety & Depression happening in January. [Read more and register to attend](#).
 - 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:

- [State superintendent race kicks off](#)
- [Proponents say universal school meals could fill in the gaps for Wisconsin students](#)
- [Superintendent Jill Underly proposes grant program to support clean water in schools](#)
- [DPI adopts reading curriculum recommendations without seeking JFC approval](#)
- [How likely is it that the next budget cycle will include more money for special education funding?](#)
- [Opinion: Wisconsin can finally get school funding right. Inequities still harm students.](#)
- [Wisconsin again sets record for number of registered apprentices](#)

National News & Legislative Updates:

- Congress will likely pass a continuing resolution (CR) to keep the government running through March. The current CR funds the government through 12/20/24. The text will likely be released before the publication of this update.
 - The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), introduced in the Senate around Thanksgiving, builds on a bipartisan House bill passed earlier this year. It has leadership support to be included in the upcoming Continuing Resolution, though some Senate holds remain.
 - Key benefits:
 - Expands youth job programs year-round and in summer.
 - Increases involvement of community-based organizations (CBOs), including out-of-school time (OST) programs.
 - Adds afterschool and summer program providers to local workforce boards.
 - [After-School Programs Offer an Antidote to Social Media Harms. Big Tech Settlements Should Foot the Bill.](#)
 - [AfterSchool Funding: Full-Service Community Schools](#)
 - [Unlikely Trump can actually eliminate Education Department, experts say](#)
 - [When Trump left office, students were struggling because of the pandemic. They still are.](#)
 - [The dark future of American child care](#)
 - [5 Things to Know About Linda McMahon](#)
 - [How Linda McMahon Might Approach the Dept. of Education](#)
 - [Robotics club aims to give disadvantaged students in Clairton new experiences](#)
 - [Missouri's afterschool programs work to create future workforce](#)
 - [Fewer after-school programs offering academic supports, NCES finds](#)
 - [Becoming a Village](#)
 - [Afterschool Alliance Election Overview](#)
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<https://www.wosta.org/>

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