

Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

Wisconsin Partnership for Children and Youth



Join the Wisconsin Partnership for Children and Youth's quarterly meeting on **March 12 at 10 a.m.** via Zoom to learn about the current landscape of out-of-school time programs amid evolving political conditions. The call will include federal updates from the Afterschool Alliance, as well as from Wisconsin's DCF and DPI. [Sign up here for the Zoom Call](#). Learn more about the [Partnership here](#).

In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- **Monthly Spotlight:** YMCA of the Chippewa Valley
- **OST Toolbox:** 21CCLC Workshop, Funding Opportunities
- **Taking Action for Afterschool:** DPI Update on Federal Funding
- **WOSTA Updates:** Join us on March 11 for *Cultivating Connections: Enhancing Social Skills and Peer Relationships in Youth Programs*
- **OST Policy and News:** Nekoosa Food Pantry, Afterschool Alliance Federal Update Blog

Monthly Program Spotlight

Building a Stronger Community: YMCA of the Chippewa Valley

Afterschool programs don't just support kids—they help build the future workforce. This month, we're highlighting the Chippewa Valley YMCA's afterschool program, which provides hands-on experience for University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire students pursuing careers in education and social work. From mentoring young learners to developing professional skills, these students are making a real impact. The program's strong partnerships with schools and commitment to accessibility ensure children receive quality care. Read more about how the YMCA is shaping the next generation of educators and youth advocates in our latest blog. [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](#)

- 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 **March 4th in the Fox Valley** and **March 6th in Milwaukee**. [Register here](#).
 - The [STEM Next Opportunity Fund](#) application has launched and will close on March 12th. The Flight Crew aims to uplift young voices in STEM from across the nation to inspire their peers and demonstrate that STEM is for everyone and takes place everywhere.
 - **Funding opportunity:** PATCH is currently seeking a community partner to implement the [PATCH Teen Educator Program](#) in Wisconsin's Northern Public Health Region.
 - **Need a playbook for funding?** Check this resource for discovering new revenue streams: [After\\$chool Funding: The relationships that matter](#)
 - **How do afterschool and summer programs best recruit, train, and retain out-of-school time (OST) staff delivering STEM activities?** We know the results of the survey will positively impact and enhance OST STEM. The National Institute on Out-of-School Time (NIOST) invites you to add your voice to this [brief national Program Director survey](#). *We are raffling a \$25 gift card each week!* Your voice is needed!
 - Grant for middle school OST programs from New York Life Foundation. A total of 30 grants worth \$1.8 million will be awarded to afterschool, summer or expanded learning programs serving middle school youth living in under-resourced communities. [Learn more and apply here](#).
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Taking Action for Afterschool

- 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 2025, 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

- Upcoming webinar addressing trauma and challenging behavior: [Regulate, Relate & Reason: Straightforward Approaches to Resolving Challenging Behaviors](#) on February 26.
- Join us on March 11th for [Cultivating Connections: Enhancing Social Skills and Peer Relationships in Youth Programs](#): Discover effective strategies to help youth develop essential social skills and build healthy

- peer relationships.
 - 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:

- [Nekoosa School District launches food pantry to combat food insecurity](#)
- [10 Questions for State Superintendent Candidates](#)
- [Marinette Shipyard Childcare Aid to Boost Workforce](#)
- [Republican lawmakers propose cell phone bans in schools](#)
- [Education committee considers bills on test scores, money for local districts](#)
- [DPI opposes bills undermining educator expertise and local control in Wisconsin schools](#)
- [Spring School Referendums](#)
- [Wisconsin child care costs soar, but thousands miss out on state aid](#)

National News & Legislative Updates:

- [Stay up to date](#) with the rapidly changing federal landscape and what it means for out of school time programs by reading the Afterschool Alliance blog.
- **Congressional Budget Updates**
 - **Appropriations**: The continuing resolution (CR) expires March 14, with no topline funding agreement yet. Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins said negotiations "are not going well." It takes about a month to finalize bills once topline numbers are set. A short-term CR or full-year funding patch may be needed. Democrats are holding to the 2023 Biden-McCarthy deal, while Republicans argue it no longer applies.
 - **Budget Reconciliation**: The Senate passed a smaller resolution focusing on defense and border security, with fewer mandatory spending cuts than the House version. Key amendments addressed adult education, homeless youth, school meals, and 21st CCLC funding protection (S.A. 135). The House Budget Committee resolution, set for a floor vote soon, proposes \$330B in education/workforce cuts over 10 years to offset tax cuts extensions. The House and Senate must reconcile their versions.
- **Administrative Updates**
 - **ED Civil Rights Letter**: The Office of Civil Rights (OCR) warns education entities against race-based policies, citing *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*. Institutions have until Feb. 28 to comply, or they risk losing federal funds. OCR will begin

compliance reviews on March 1.

- **Education Contract Cuts:** The Department of Education canceled \$600 million in grants and contracts, mostly for teacher training, due to noncompliance with DEI-related Executive Orders. Cuts include the National Comprehensive Centers and 18 grants.
- [How much federal education funding could Wisconsin lose?](#)
- [Newly introduced legislation would support mentoring in and out of school](#)
- [New polling shows voters value afterschool](#)
- [Reconciliation: A tax bill with key implications for families today and tomorrow](#)
- [Congress Failed to Renew a Critical Funding Program for Rural Schools](#)
- [How some low-income NJ school districts overcame pandemic slump](#)
- [U.S. nonprofits still reeling from federal funding freeze](#)
- [Trump executive orders on DEI and schools big on drama, but impact will take time to emerge](#)



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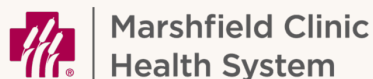


Contact Us.

wosta@marshfieldclinic.org

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

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