

The logo features a large, stylized letter 'W' in a dark teal color on the left. To its right, the text 'Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance' is written in white, with 'Advocate' centered below it. The background is a gradient of teal and purple with a curved, abstract shape in a darker purple.

Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

Special Announcement

Governor Evers has released a memo after the State of the State Address that he will include:

- \$11.5 million to provide a dedicated fund for out-of-school time programs that aim to improve social, emotional, academic, or career readiness, provide a safe out-of-school time environment, and reduce negative behaviors, including violence and crime
- \$480 million over the biennium to continue the successful Child Care Counts Program
- Read the press release [HERE](#)

In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- **Monthly Spotlight:** MAYDM Robot Workshop
- **OST Toolbox:** 21CCLC Regional Workshops, Youth Safety Summit
- **Taking Action for Afterschool:** WI Partnership, Updated Advocacy Webpage
- **WOSTA Updates:** Upcoming Webinars, New ebook on Mental Health and Wellness
- **OST Policy and News:** Early Childhood Council Report, \$250M for Child Care Block Grant

Monthly Program Spotlight

Highlighting Innovation: The MAYDM STEM Program

Out-of-school time (OST) programs are crucial for offering students unique learning opportunities beyond the classroom. MAYDM (Made by Them) in Madison is a standout program empowering girls and youth of color in grades 6-12 to pursue STEM careers. Through one-day workshops, school

visits, and extended summer sessions, MAYDM sparks interest in STEM and provides essential skills. They also connect students with local businesses for paid internships, offering hands-on experience.

Find out how programs like MAYDM inspire and equip students with the tools and confidence needed for STEM careers: [Read more](#)

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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 **February 6 in Madison, WI** from

9:30am -12:30pm. [Register here.](#)

- [AfterSchool Funding: The relationships that matter](#)
 - [Youth Safety Summit](#): Thursday, February 20 - Friday, February 21, 2025
Wilderness Resort, Wisconsin Dells
 - [The STEM Stereotypes That Hold Students Back Aren't What You Think](#)
 - [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
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Taking Action for Afterschool

- The next [Wisconsin Partnership for Youth and Children](#) quarterly meeting via Zoom is March 12, at 10 am. The *Wisconsin Partnership for Youth and Children* meets to learn about policy affecting OST programs, and discuss the needs of school age children in out of school time. **All supporters of afterschool and summer programs are welcome!** [Sign up here](#)
 - Our newly updated [WOSTA Advocacy page](#) is a great resource for those seeking ideas and information to support your advocacy efforts.
 - *How Afterschool Programs are Building School-Day Engagement and Improving Attendance*: [Read the Brief](#)
 - **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.
 - [Urging Support for Afterschool and Summer Learning Funding in FY 2025](#)
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WOSTA Updates

- Upcoming STEAM webinar: [A Virtual Adventure in Graphing with Daphne](#) on February 17.
 - Upcoming webinar addressing trauma and challenging behavior: [Regulate, Relate & Reason: Straightforward Approaches to Resolving Challenging Behaviors](#) on February 26.
 - 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:

- [Excerpts from the Governor's State of the State Address](#)
- [Early Childhood Advisory Council 2024 Report](#)
- [How much longer can child care workers take low wages?](#)

- [Ten years after its creation, Office of Children's Mental Health confronts worsening crisis](#)
- [Wisconsin youth face mental health challenges linked to drugs and alcohol, social media and other factors](#)
- [Following school shooting, Evers directs federal funds to new violence prevention office](#)
- [Money allocated for Wisconsin reading law could go to state surplus if not used by June 30](#)
- [Boys & Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee announce 2025 Youth of the Year nominee](#)
- [South Wood County YMCA to close Port Edwards facility, open Wisconsin Rapids to 24/7 access](#)
- [State agency again makes record contribution to school libraries for 2025](#)
- [Blaming schools deflects attention from the real problem with property taxes](#)

National News & Legislative Updates:

- **December Continuing Resolution (CR):** Included in the CR is \$500 million for child care with \$250 million for renovation and repairs of child care facilities that were damaged by natural disasters, as well as temporary services for children in affected areas; and a separate \$250 million for the [Child Care and Development Block Grant](#) to increase access to quality child care for working families. [More Details Here.](#)
- **Budget reconciliation:** Republicans are still weighing whether to do one or two budget reconciliation bills this year. Options to pay for these bills were released last week and could include cuts to several student financial aid programs, as well as existing education-related tax credits.
- [What 2025 is likely to bring for America's afterschool programs](#)
- [Investment in prevention programs has curbed gun violence in Pa.: advocacy group](#)
- [Federal judge vacates Biden Title IX rule, scrapping protections for LGBTQ+ students nationwide](#)
- [Expanding Afterschool and Summer Learning to Boost Student Success](#)





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

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