



Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

The WAN Advocate is now The WOSTA Advocate

Please follow us on [*social media*](#) for ongoing content and updates.

In this edition of the new WOSTA Advocate

- Monthly Spotlight: MKE Rec Partnership for the Arts & Humanities
- OST Toolbox: Podcast, Madison OST Training, [*NEW Grant Opportunity*](#)
- Taking Action for Afterschool: Internal & External Advocacy
- WOSTA Updates: OST Conference Call for Proposals
- OST Policy and News

June Spotlight

We're thrilled to share highlights from the Milwaukee Public Recreation Art Showcase held on May 30th at Turner Hall! This vibrant event celebrated the creativity and dedication of the Milwaukee community's young artists.

One of the standout stars was Brooklyn, a passionate dancer from the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee. She shared her love for dance and the supportive environment that helps her and her peers thrive.

The showcase featured a diverse range of talents, from visual arts to spoken word, demonstrating the incredible skills of Milwaukee's youth. These events are crucial in promoting after-school programs and supporting our future artists.

Read more about the inspiring performances and the importance of arts enrichment on our [*blog*](#) and [*watch*](#) a highlight video of the event.



The OST Toolbox

- Working in a summer program? Check out this popular podcast called [*How to Manage When Things Change at Camp*](#)
- [*Questions that fuel conversations*](#)
- In partnership with MSCR, Wisconsin Youth Company, Goodman Community Center, and the City of Madison, the **Madison Out-of-School Time (MOST) conference** is coming back- save the date, August 28th, 2024. You can [*REGISTER NOW*](#)
- [*New Department of Education Grant*](#) The Education Innovation and Research (EIR) Program, managed by the U.S. Department of Education, offers Early-phase Grants to support innovative, evidence-based projects that aim to improve student achievement and attainment, particularly for high-need students

Taking Action for Afterschool

Internal Advocacy: Prove the Power of Your After-School Program

- When advocating for your after-school program to school administrators and staff, focus on showcasing how the program directly enhances students' academic performance, social skills, and overall well-being. Present data and testimonials that illustrate improvements in grades, attendance, and behavior among participants. Emphasize the program's role in providing a safe and supportive environment that complements the school's educational objectives. By clearly linking the benefits of your program to the school's mission and goals, you can demonstrate its indispensable value and garner stronger support from key stakeholders.

External Advocacy: A simple Way to Make a Difference

- Use this [simple tool from the Afterschool Alliance](#) to contact your legislators and let them know that out of school time programs are essential to your community.
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WOSTA Updates

- Out of School Time Conference set for November 12-13 in person, virtual November 15: [Call for Proposals](#) now open
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OST Policy and News

Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [Ongoing Child Care Crisis: Bridging the Political Divide](#)
- [Maintaining Infant Mental Health: The Role of Caregivers' Well-Being](#)
- [WI Childcare Workers Among Lowest Paid](#)
- [How Local Leaders Can Improve the Quality of Life for All Children Through Nature Access](#)
- [Nature-based early education connects kids with outdoors](#)
- [WI Child Care Workers Among Lowest Paid](#)
- [UW-Madison professor traces the ways women are pushed to serve as a social safety net](#)
- [Madison Youth Workers Say We Must Invest in Kids' Curiosity to Help Them Succeed](#)
- [Nearly half of Wisconsin Legislature won't run in old districts as new maps shake up state politics](#)

National News & Legislative Updates:

- The House Appropriations Committee approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Labor-HHS-Education bill with an 11%-16% cut from FY 2024 levels, despite a \$2 billion boost. *This could reduce funding for education, health, and social services, impacting children and families who rely on these programs.* Ongoing partisan disagreements and a tight schedule add uncertainty to the bill's future.
- House Agriculture Chairman G.T. Thompson's farm bill, which advanced out of committee with a bipartisan vote, faces an uncertain future due to partisan disagreements over nutrition and climate policies. The bill includes nearly \$30 billion in cuts over 10 years, raising concerns about its impact on the 41.4 million people relying on SNAP. For kids and families, this could mean reduced access to essential food assistance, affecting their health and well-being.
- The Child Care for American Families Act, introduced by Congressman Kustoff, aims to expand childcare access by increasing the Employer-Provided Childcare Tax Credit, particularly benefiting small businesses and rural areas. The bill encourages multiple employers to apply jointly and directs the IRS to promote the credit. This legislation seeks to make childcare more affordable and accessible for families. For more information, visit the [official press release](#).
- [A Workforce Supporting Workforces: 3 Ways Phoenix is Centering Early Childhood](#)
- [We Must Protect Play](#)
- [Decades in the Making: An Introduction to 4 Cities Who Are Leading the Way](#)

- in Early Learning and the Child Care Economy*
- *[In Search of Funding for Child Care, 2 Colorado Regions Pursue Special Taxing Districts](#)*
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<https://www.wosta.org/>

Proudly enriching the health of our communities through a partnership between Marshfield Clinic Health System and the Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance, with generous support from the Charles Mott Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Supporting Families Together Association and Shine Early Learning.



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