



Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

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Monthly Program Spotlight

Building Sustainable and Inclusive Out-of-School Time Programs in Oshkosh Public Schools

Zach Starkey, the Communities Learning Centers Director for Oshkosh Area School District (OASD), is leading efforts to build sustainable and inclusive out-of-school time programs. These programs serve both children and families, fostering connections between students, staff, and the broader community. [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

- From the Office of Children’s Mental Health Series: *Students Spoke, We Listened*: [Top Stressors](#), [Mental Wellness](#), [Youth Belonging](#)
- Check out these other resources from the [WI Office of Children’s Mental Health](#)
- The 2025 Lights On Afterschool [poster contest is officially open!](#)
- Looking for STEM Activities? [Check out this new resource](#)
- Policy Pulse - [Registration link](#) Every second Friday at 1 pm, Erik Peterson from the Afterschool Alliance, 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.

Taking Action for Afterschool

- The Afterschool Alliance has launched a new website to defend 21st Century Community Learning Center funding: [Afterschool Works for America](#)
- **Children’s Funding Project:** If you believe that youth development is a key antidote to the harms of social media, join a coalition working to prioritize future legal settlement dollars for children and youth

- programs. [Read more.](#)
 - Proven to resonate across party lines when advocating for state funding to expand learning opportunities for children and youth. [Six Key Reasons to Invest in Afterschool and Summer Programs.](#)
 - Need resources to support your advocacy? Check out our [Afterschool Champions Guide.](#)
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WOSTA Updates

- Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance (WOSTA) is working with STEM Next to provide Free STEM activity plans and resources to programs this summer as well as host a Summer Cohort which will provide additional support to program staff implementing the lessons. [Learn more here.](#)
 - Check out all [WOSTA calendar events right here](#)
 - WOSTA has a collection of Mental Health resources designed for school-age programs. [Check them out.](#)
 - Looking for resources to support your summer staff training? Check out this [Summer Guide](#) to help you meet all of your training needs!
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OST Policy and News

Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of the Northwoods team up to expand services](#)
- [ALBA CLC site director Eunice Perez is a homegrown success](#)
- [The Boys & Girls Club will open a new site in Marshfield](#)
- [Filling a need: new child care program coming to Winneconne](#)
- [Fort McCoy teen named 2025 Wisconsin Military Youth of the Year](#)
- [Oshkosh YMCA will host 10th annual Kids' Mud Run June 1](#)
- [Wisconsin joins over 20 states in lawsuit challenging AmeriCorps funding cuts](#)
- [Cuts to federal volunteer program AmeriCorps leaves Wisconsin programs scrambling](#)
- [How will AmeriCorps cuts affect Wisconsin students? Some see cuts, shutdowns ahead](#)
- [Joint Finance Committee eliminates over 600 items from Evers' budget proposal](#)
- DPI launches [new website](#) to track federal funding impact on Wisconsin schools, libraries

Federal Policy Updates & National News:

- Since the release of the President's Budget which threatened afterschool and summer programs afterschool advocates across the country united to send a strong message to Congress: Keep funding for the local programs that keep kids safe, inspire them to learn, and help working families. In just a short time:
 - Over 11,000 people have contacted their representatives in Congress, resulting in more than 33,000 emails and calls.

- On May 5, a letter coordinated by the Afterschool Alliance was sent to Congressional Appropriators in support of 21st CCLC funding, signed by 260 local, state, and national organizations, representing all 50 states.
- On May 6, 55 advocates from 19 states went to Capitol Hill and met in person with nearly 70 offices as part of the Afterschool for All Challenge.
- **Stay in the Loop:** [Afterschool Alliance Update Email](#)
- **Congressional Activity**
 - **2026 Budget:** the administration's budget appears to cut approximately 33% of federal education funding and appears to eliminate the 21st Century Learning Center grants. **TRIO, GEAR UP, Federal Work Study, Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5)** programs are also proposed for elimination.
 - **Reconciliation Process:** on-going negotiations continue among Republicans. Cuts will likely include SNAP, Medicaid.
 - **AFTERSCHOOL ACT** reintroduced. It would establish a \$15 million non-competitive grant to support youth development programs in high juvenile offense rates.
 - The bipartisan **Early Childhood Nutrition Improvement Act of 2025**, makes several improvements to streamline the CACFP and ensure children are fed healthy meals throughout the day.
- **Administrative Updates**
 - **ESSER Extension** - A judge ruled last week to reinstate ESSER extension funding to 16 states and DC. [Read the blog.](#)
 - **Congress is still waiting** on a rescission letter from the administration regarding possible cuts to funding approved in the 2025 budget.
- **National News**
 - [Opinion: We need heroes. Alaska after-school programs are full of them.](#)
 - [Mural Arts' after-school programming prepares students, heals communities](#)
 - [Alisa E. Harris: State funding is reducing violence and supporting youth — we must keep it going.](#)
 - [Head Start preschool programs hit by cuts](#)
 - [Trump administration cuts \\$1 billion in school mental health grants, citing conflict of priorities](#)
 - [Proposal to cut afterschool programs will hurt students and economy](#)
 - [Reversal of ESSER funding extensions is impacting local afterschool programs](#)
 - [The case against consolidating or block granting federal afterschool and summer funding](#)



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wosta@marshfieldclinic.org

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

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Marshfield Clinic Health System | 1000 N. Oak Ave (F1C) | Marshfield, WI 54449 US

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