



# Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

## **WOSTA Advocate Alert**

New DPI budget request: Fund the Out-of-School-Time Grant Program with an emphasis on serving students as a means of reducing chronic absenteeism (\$20M over the biennium). [Read more.](#)

## **In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate**

- **Monthly Spotlight:** Kroc Center STEM Spooktacular
- **OST Toolbox:** Long-Term Funding Webinar; Statewide Organizer Position
- **Taking Action for Afterschool:** Statewide Advocacy Group forming
- **WOSTA Updates:** Release of Mental Health & Wellness Resource Guide (ebook), Upcoming December webinars, School-Age Curricular Framework December course registration closing soon
- **OST Policy and News:** Election breakdown, Madison Lights on Event
- Please follow us on [social media](#) for ongoing content and updates.

## **Monthly Program Spotlight**

### ***STEM Spooktacular***

In this month's spotlight, we are excited to share a special treat from the Kroc Community Center in Green Bay. The Kroc Center's "Spooktacular" highlights a special event where families enjoyed a Halloween-themed night filled with fun and STEM activities. Organizer Grace Hageman explained that, "Science and Halloween just go so perfectly together. You can make any science activity Halloween and you can make any Halloween thing science in some way." This engaging event brought together community partners, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Einstein Project, to create a memorable experience for children and families. Read the full blog post [here](#).



## Taking Action for Afterschool

- **NEW COALITION FORMING** to unite statewide support for afterschool and summer programs beginning soon! The [Wisconsin Partnership for Youth and Children](#) will be meeting quarterly via Zoom to discuss and prioritize the needs of school age children in out of school time. All supporters of afterschool and summer programs are welcome! [Sign up here!](#)
  - This is a great time to reach out to your state legislators. About 1/3 of all Wisconsin legislators are new to the legislature and it is critical to begin developing a relationship with your representative. [Look up the 2025-27 legislator](#) for your district.
  - Data for afterschool is the lifeblood of funding for afterschool and summer programs. [Take this survey](#) for the chance to win \$50 for your program.
  - **Advocacy Resource:** *How can afterschool programs address chronic absenteeism?* This is an excellent resource to use with superintendents, principals, and school board members.
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## WOSTA Updates

- WOSTA has published a new [ebook on Mental Health & Wellness](#) . This resource is packed full of high quality materials for practitioners.
  - The Wisconsin OST Conference: The in-person conference was held this past November 13th in Wisconsin Dells and was a great success with 200+ attendees. This was followed up with a virtual conference day on the 15th with 200 participants.
  - The Wisconsin Youth Company in cooperation with WOSTA and MOST is hiring an organizer to create the people power to ensure future funding for youth in our state. [LEARN MORE HERE!](#)
  - Mark your calendar for two upcoming December webinars: *Building a Mentally Healthy Workplace: Supporting Staff in OST Programs With Dr. Michels* and *Navigating Challenging Family Dynamics with Tiffany Kula*. [Read webinar descriptions and register here](#).
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## OST Policy and News

### Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [DPI Superintendent Jill Underly announces major public education budget requests Monday](#)
- [Lights on Afterschool Celebration in Madison](#) brings out the Lt. Governor and other state leaders.
- [Democrats flip 14 seats in the Wisconsin Legislature](#)
- [Full list of Wisconsin State Legislature 2025](#)
- [Chronic Absenteeism Persists in All Corners of Wisconsin](#)
- [Wisconsin voters pass 78% of school funding requests this cycle](#)

### National News & Legislative Updates:

- [Election 2024 results: What may be next for afterschool:](#)
    - **Department of Education:** The proposal to close the Department of Education, a complex issue requiring Congressional approval, persists. Despite discussions for over 20 years, 60 Republicans opposed the last House proposal. Notably, 21st Century Grants increased under Trump and remained flat under Biden.
    - **Formula Grant Funding:** A new administration might again try to consolidate and eliminate title funding for education, as seen in previous Trump budget proposals. Despite proposed eliminations or consolidations of 21C four times, strong bipartisan support in Congress led to a \$60 million increase over four years. However, the new administration could challenge laws preventing Presidents from withholding funds meant for states.
    - **Tax Policy:** The Child Tax Credit, part of the 2017 TCJA, expires at the end of 2025, offering potential opportunities. The previous Trump administration proposed privately funded Education Freedom Scholarships for afterschool/summer programs. Extending corporate tax cuts could reduce revenues for discretionary spending, including education.
    - **Parent and Youth Voice:** Parent rights and voice are prominent in the administration's education priorities. Parents strongly support afterschool programs, according to polling and research. However, youth voice, influential in recent years, is absent from Trump's campaign priorities.
  - [Afterschool Alliance Election Overview](#)
  - **Legislative Update:** A lame duck congress will need to pass a continuing resolution by December 20 in order to keep the government fully funded. This does not impact current 21st Century grants.
  - [State and local elections 2024: Implications for Afterschool Programs](#)
  - [Trump won the presidency. What does that mean for education?](#)
  - [Teen Crime Is on the Rise. Our Bipartisan Bill Can Help.](#)
  - [After-School Programs Offer an Antidote to Social Media Harms. Big Tech Settlements Should Foot the Bill.](#)
  - [Akron Youth Success Summit holds rally to celebrate afterschool programs.](#)
  - [Harrison County organization breaks world record to raise awareness for afterschool programs](#)
  - [It just brings me joy: Promoting the power of afterschool programs.](#)
  - [Pennsylvania lawmakers advocate for after-school programs in State Capitol](#)
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