



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 WOSTA Advocate

- Monthly Spotlight: UW-Stevens Point Theatre Camp
- OST Toolbox: Lights On, AmeriCorps, DPI Webinars
- Taking Action for Afterschool: Factsheet, Upcoming Elections
- WOSTA Updates: OST Conference Registration, QPR Suicide Prevention Trainings for National Suicide Prevention Month in September
- OST Policy and News: FY 2025 Budget, Childcare Market Survey, Wisconsin Shares and much more

August Spotlight

Discover the creativity and community spirit of the young performers at the UWSP Marshfield Summer Theatre Camp. This year's camp, featuring a production of "Frozen," unites participants aged 9 to 18 in a unique multi-age collaboration. Learn how this cherished program fosters connection, personal growth, and lasting friendships, all under the guidance of a dedicated director and enthusiastic campers. Curious to see how this summer tradition shapes lives?

[*Click here*](#) to read more on the OST blog



The OST Toolbox

- Lights On for Afterschool- it is never too early to start thinking about Lights On events for this fall. Lights On is set for October 24th, and is the only national event promoting the importance of afterschool and summer programs. Sign-up to learn more in this [webinar](#) from the Afterschool Alliance.
- Interested in AmeriCorps for your afterschool program? [Learn more here.](#)
- **Understanding Youth – Serving Systems for School Staff**
 - Free DPI Webinar Series: This series will help staff better understand the structure, goals, and processes of systems that serve students. [Click here to register for one or more free sessions.](#)
- New [resource database](#) for programs interested in STEM, civic engagement, and youth empowerment

Taking Action for Afterschool

- Check out this [new fact sheet](#) for Making the Case for State OST Funding ; a useful tool when connecting with state policy makers.
- **Wisconsin Primaries are complete** and candidates for each party have been chosen: *Did you know that state legislative representatives are critical to funding education, including afterschool and summer programs. Become an informed voter this fall by using the tool below.*
- [Use this tool](#) to register to vote, find out the district you live in and learn about your candidates and the issues. All you need is your address.

WOSTA Updates

- [Registration](#) opens August 28 for the 2024 Statewide OST Conference -

scheduled for November 12-13, in-person at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells and November 15, virtual.

- September is **Suicide Prevention Month** and WOSTA is offering free *Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention* trainings throughout the month. [Visit our website](#) for dates and to register.
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OST Policy and News

Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [Childcare Market Share Survey Impacts Childcare Access](#)
- [Changes to Wisconsin Shares](#): In July 2024, significant changes to the Wisconsin Shares childcare subsidy program were implemented. The initial income eligibility limit was increased to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), and the copayment calculation for families earning above this threshold was adjusted, adding \$1 for every \$5 increase in income.
- [DPI Youth Risk Survey for 2023 is now available](#)
- [DPI awards grants to community learning centers](#)
- [Edgar's summer school offers fun and learning](#)
- [The La Crosse YMCA keeps kids fed through the summer months](#)
- [Organizations work to steer kids away from violence](#)
- [Public education supporters' summit highlights school funding, ways to advocate for more](#)
- [The DPI Office of Literacy: What You Can Expect](#)
- [Voters reject amendment questions that would have curbed governor's power to spend federal funds](#)
- [Most current lawmakers defeat challengers in state Legislature primaries](#)

National News & Legislative Updates:

- **FY 25 Appropriations Update**: Recently, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed their LHHS spending bill with bipartisan support (25-3). [Read a summary](#).
- The Senate failed last week to pass the bipartisan **Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act** (H.R. 7024)—the tax package that includes an expanded Child Tax Credit as well as revived tax cuts for businesses, like research and development deductions.
- Republicans introduced the **Child Care and Development Block Grant Reauthorization Act of 2024**. The bill emphasizes flexible options in a mixed delivery system, supporting parent choice, including before-school, afterschool, and summer care.
- **US Senator Chris Murphy** of Connecticut recently announced his intention to introduce a new [Summer for All Act](#) which will propose \$4 Billion in new federal funding for summer programs over four years. In addition, Gallup released a new, nationally representative survey of nearly 7,000 parents across the US on the summer experiences of youth. Learn more through [this article](#) and [infographic](#).
- **ARP ESSER Extensions**: Last month, the Department of Education posted [guidance](#) on reallocating unused ESSER funds.

- [New survey results show parents want more summer programming](#)
- [A new report released this week by the Food Research & Action Center \(FRAC\) reveals a drop in children participating in the Summer Nutrition Programs following the loss of pandemic-era waivers](#)



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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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