

The logo features a large, stylized letter 'W' in a dark teal color. To the right of the 'W', the words 'Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance' are stacked above the word 'Advocate'. The background is a gradient of magenta and dark teal, with a curved magenta line arching over the text.

Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

Afterschool Victory - But the Fight's Not Over

We won a critical battle - but the future is still uncertain for the 18,000+ Wisconsin kids who count on afterschool and summer programs.

This summer, federal funds were nearly lost without warning, and the only reason they were restored? **Tens of thousands of people raised their voices.**

Read our [latest blog](#) to learn what happened, what it means for Wisconsin families, and why we can't keep relying on federal dollars alone.

Let's keep the momentum going - for our kids, our families, and our future.

In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- **Monthly Spotlight:** Ashland and Solon Springs
- **OST Toolbox:** Extra-curriculars and youth mental health
- **Taking Action for Afterschool:** Fighting for FY2026/27 21CCLC funding
- **WOSTA Updates:** School-Age Curricular Framework intensive
- **OST Policy and State News:** WI Bridge Payments
- **Federal News:** Federal education funding released

Monthly Program Spotlight

This month we are highlighting two 21CCLC Summer Programs.



What do you think happens to a Lego boat when placed in a tub of water? It floats! Now, how could you make that same boat into a submarine? Lots of trial and error with the young scientists in *Ashland's summer CLC*. [Read more.](#)



Solon Springs summer CLC is in full swing. Not only are kids getting enrichment opportunities to improve in reading and math, they are also getting the opportunity to fully enjoy all the splendor of a northern Wisconsin summer. [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

- Fact sheet on Extra-Curriculars and Youth Mental Health from the [WI Office of Children's Mental Health](#)
- Looking for STEM Activities? [Check out this new resource](#)
- Need to know the latest? Join the Policy Pulse call each week- [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 fight for 21st Century Community Learning Center FY2026/27 funding starts now!
 - [Promote your program to policy makers with afterschool postcards!](#)
 - The Afterschool Alliance has launched a new website to defend 21st Century Community Learning Center funding: [Afterschool Works for America](#)
- New interactive resource from DPI: [The impact of 21st](#)

- Want to know the best times to reach your federal legislator? [Use this calendar](#) to coordinate both your call and a visit.
 - Want to know best practices for hosting a successful site visit? Inviting a lawmaker to tour your afterschool program is one of the best ways to show him or her firsthand the impact of afterschool programming on students and families in their district and/or state. [Use this resource to learn best practices for a legislator visit to your site.](#)
 - 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](#)
 - [New social media lawsuits webpage](#) from the Children's Funding Project
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WOSTA Updates

- The Partnership for Children and Youth met on July 14th: the discussion revolved around an update on 21st CCLC funding and advocacy efforts to ensure the funding was released for the program.
 - School-Age Curricular Framework intensive will run the week of August 18-22. [Register here.](#)
 - Join the **Fall STEM Cohort** offered in partnership with STEM Next. Registration will open in August - watch for more information soon.
 - QPR Suicide Prevention trainings are scheduled for the month of September. Visit the [WOSTA website](#) for more information and to register.
 - Save the Date - **Statewide OST Conference**
 - October 29-30 in-person in Appleton
 - November 7 virtual
 - For more information visit the [conference page](#)
 - WOSTA has published a collection of resource guides on a variety of topics: an [ebook on Mental Health & Wellness](#), an [ebook on Starting a 21C Program](#), and an [ebook on Program Sustainability](#). These guides are packed full of high quality tools and resources for programs.
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OST Policy and News

Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [New Trump rule bans undocumented immigrant families from Head Start](#)
- [New child care payment program launched to bridge gap](#)
- [The real effects of the Wisconsin state budget on children](#)
- [Gov. Evers Launches \\$110 Million in Direct Child Care Provider Payments, Avoiding Gap in Critical Assistance](#)
- [Provider to close her family child care program, but won't leave advocacy](#)
- [Kenosha school district leaders say funding 'uncertainty is at an all](#)

- time high'
- [Wisconsin spends less on education than national average, report finds](#)
- [Wisconsin Democrats launch push to take the majority in the state Senate](#)
- DPI launches [new website](#) to track federal funding impact on Wisconsin schools, libraries
- [Analysis: Inflation-adjusted Wisconsin public school funding continues slide below national average](#)
- [Wisconsin adult education in jeopardy after Trump withholds \\$7M in funding](#)

Federal Policy Updates & National News:

- Stay in the Loop: [Afterschool Alliance Update Email](#)
- **Congressional Activity:** FY26 allocations released and the Labor-HHS-Education bill cut by \$14 billion (7%), House Labor-HHS-Education action is pushed back to early September.
- **Administrative updates:** The Office of Management and Budget released 21st CCLC funds last Monday and on Friday they announced that [the remainder of the federal funds](#) will also be released.
 - State allocations for 21st CCLC grants can be found [here](#).
 - States will be prohibited from using 21st CCLC funds to serve individuals who are not in the country legally. State Education Agencies are reviewing the additional requirements, and will be required to sign an agreement prior to distributing the funding. Legal challenges to these requirements are likely.

National News

- [States Receive Grant Award Notifications following Release of 21st CCLC Funding](#)
 - [Trump backtracks on after-school funding after bipartisan push](#)
 - [Some frozen federal funds for schools released to states by Trump administration](#)
 - [Trump White House to release some after-school money but billions for education still frozen](#)
 - [Members of Congress voice outrage over withholding of education and afterschool Funds](#)
 - [White House Targets Bloated Federal Agency in Next Round of Rescissions](#)
 - [What a smaller Dept. of Education means](#)
 - [States in 'triage mode' over \\$6B in withheld K-12 funding](#)
 - [After-school programs potentially saved from Trump administration freeze, but 'realistically, this thing is dead' some still warn](#)
 - [Medicaid, SNAP cuts create tough choices](#)
 - [GOP members of US Senate protest Trump freeze of \\$6.8B in school funding](#)
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<https://www.wosta.org/>

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