



# Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

## Time Sensitive Updates

The Wisconsin Partnership for Children & Youth is offering two new opportunities:

- Last Chance to Apply! [\\$250 mini-grants for Lights On Afterschool celebrations](#). The application deadline is September 30.
- A \$1,000 stipend for participating in the Community Connector Fellowship. The application deadline is October 3, 2025. [Learn more here](#).

The Wisconsin OST Conference will be held October 29-30 at the Hilton Paper Valley in Appleton. A virtual conference day will be held November 7th. [Register now](#).

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### In this edition of the WOSTA Advocate

- Monthly Spotlight: Returning in October
- OST Toolbox: Turn Lights On Afterschool into a spirit week!
- Taking Action for Afterschool: New 21st Century Toolkit
- WOSTA Updates: WI Out of School Time Conference
- OST Policy and State News: Education agenda announced
- Federal News: Shutdown looms

## Monthly Program Spotlight

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

- October 23 is Lights On Afterschool! Don't forget to [register your event](#). Now more than ever, it's important to shine a spotlight on your program. Use this national day of advocacy to show your community why your program matters.
  - **Lights on Afterschool October 20th-24th:** turn your Lights On activity into a full spirit week for your program. [This resource gives you some fantastic ideas](#) for each day of the week.
  - Learn about the [Farm to School Grant program](#). Apply before 12/10/2025.
  - [Preventing Suicide Among Black Youth](#)
  - [Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide](#)
  - [Afterschool STEM: Turning curiosity into careers and citizenship](#)
  - Looking for STEM Activities? [Check out this resource](#)
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### Taking Action for Afterschool

- The 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) [Advocacy Toolkit](#) is now available! Funding for 21st CCLC programs is at risk for the 2026–27 school year. This toolkit equips programs with resources and strategies to advocate for continued support.
  - [Advocating vs. Lobbying](#): Know the difference to make sure you are following the law.
  - Want to know the best times to reach your federal legislator? [Use this calendar](#) to coordinate both your call and a visit.
  - [Use this resource to learn best practices for a legislator visit to your site](#).
  - Need resources to support your advocacy? Check out our [Afterschool Champions Guide](#)
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### WOSTA Updates

- **Out of School Time Conference 2025:** October 29-30, 2025 | Hilton Appleton Paper Valley in Appleton, WI and Virtual November 7, 2025. [Learn more](#).
  - **The Partnership for Children and Youth** met on September 23rd at 11:00am. The Partnership is the advocacy group that brings all afterschool and summer programs together. [Review the meeting slides](#) and [watch the recording](#).
  - WOSTA's [2025-26 Course Calendar](#) is now available!
  - Check out the [Events Calendar](#) for upcoming trainings and other events
  - [Sign up for the WOSTA email list](#) to receive regular updates.
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### OST Policy and News

#### Wisconsin News& Legislative Updates:

- [Administration cancels grants that support deafblind students, special education teachers](#)

- [Community and culture at COMSA](#)
- [Students entering and exiting high school have declining scores in math, reading and science](#)
- [Wisconsin youth sue state to strike down laws they say worsen climate crisis](#)
- [Assembly Republicans Announce their Education Agenda](#)
- [Underly Condemns Sudden Termination of Federal Funding for Deafblind and Special Education Programs](#)
- [‘Big Beautiful Bill’ to Increase Costs for Wisconsin Taxpayers by Over \\$284 Million in Future Budgets](#)

## Federal Policy Updates & National News:

- Stay in the Loop: [Afterschool Alliance Update Email](#)
- **Federal Update: Possible Shutdown & Funding Outlook**
  - **Shutdown risk:** Without a continuing resolution by Oct. 1, the government could shut down.
  - **Programs continuing:** 21st CCLC, CCDF, and school meals are expected to continue, though uncertainty remains. AmeriCorps positions could be furloughed, and the Trump administration has indicated some roles may be eliminated.
  - **Agency impact:** Federal agencies that support afterschool may be unavailable during a shutdown.
  - **Looking ahead:** Both House and Senate proposals protect 21st CCLC at \$1.329B, but the House plan cuts overall education funding by 15%, including \$4.7B from Title I.
- **Congressional Activity:**
  - Senate FY 2026 appropriations bill protects most federal education funding, including 21st CCLC.
  - House version **preserves 21st CCLC** but makes deep cuts to Title I, Community Schools, and other key programs.
- **Administrative updates:**
  - **Youth Mentoring Funds at Risk:** Some of the FY25 Youth Mentoring grants at the Department of Justice have now been released. Programs that support or promote DEI efforts will not receive their funding.
  - **Stay up to date!** Join the weekly Policy Pulse call—every second Friday at 1 pm. Erik Peterson (Afterschool Alliance) will share the latest policy updates and what they mean for afterschool and summer programs. [Register here](#) and [send your questions in advance!](#)
- **National News**
  - [Inside the education impacts of a shutdown](#)
  - [New educational tax credit holds potential opportunities for afterschool](#)
  - [Student test scores are sliding, reaching new lows](#)
  - [House subcommittee releases FY 2026 education spending bill with afterschool funding maintained](#)
  - [Afterschool Clip Digest:](#) get more detail on the federal budget.

- [Johnson and Jeffries kick off funding tango with talk of a holiday punt](#)
- [Update on Social Media litigation](#)
- [Prioritize funding after-school programs](#)



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