

Wisconsin Out of School Time Alliance Advocate

The WAN Advocate is now The WOSTA Advocate

If you are new to The Advocate, this monthly newsletter informs people around the state about policy, news and events related to afterschool and out-of-school time programs. Please share this content with others who might be interested and encourage them to sign up for our email list [here](#).

In this edition of the new WOSTA Advocate:

- Spotlight on a Program
- The OST Toolbox - Resources for Youth Leaders
- Out-of-School Time News and Policy
- Introducing Dan Gage

April Spotlight on a Program

Meet Wisconsin Youth Company's Jen and Courtney from the Elver Park Neighborhood Center in Madison. Their dedication to kids at Elver Park is based on their desire to give back to their community and support families in the area. Read more on WOSTA's social media platforms.



The OST Toolbox- Resources for Youth Leaders

- 2024 Afterschool for All Challenge workshops to be held June 10 and 11

- [How In-School Tutoring Benefits Both Attendance and Math Scores, Education Week, 3-29-2024](#)
 - [5 strategies for a successful after-school program](#)
 - [Schools can close summer learning gaps with these 4 strategies](#)
 - Department of Education: [Engage Every Student Huddle](#) on April 25th to focus on multilingualism, mental health, and academic support
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Taking Action for Afterschool

- [WI Dept. of Children and Family release their CCDF Block Grant plan](#) The federal government requires each state to write a 3-year plan for how each state will use funds that are directed towards childcare. DCF has released their draft plan for addressing child care in the state, and is now seeking public comment. The CCDF plan outlines how each state will use federal funds to support low-income families in accessing child care, including eligibility, provider payments, and quality improvements. It also coordinates with other programs for comprehensive services. [More background on CCDF rules](#) Public comment can be made here: DCFCCDFStatePlanComments@wisconsin.gov, public input meeting is May 15th.
 - House Appropriations guidance and dates – [Public Witness testimony](#) on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget is due by May 3. Guidance for Representatives' programmatic and funding requests, but not yet for earmarks.
 - Senate Appropriations guidance and dates – Committee has now posted [guidance for Senators' FY 2025 requests](#) for language, program funding, and earmarks. May 14 deadline for Labor-HHS-Education requests.
 - [Urging Support for Afterschool and Summer Learning Funding in FY 2025](#)
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Policy and News Updates:

- The House Appropriations Committee may ban nonprofits from getting earmarks for HUD projects (construction/renovation). This move follows last year's closure of earmarks for DOL, HHS, and Education. HUD has been the primary account for nonprofits in the House. **Closing this account would greatly limit nonprofits' chances of getting earmarks from the House, which historically has had the highest success rate for such projects.**
- Senators Blackburn (R-TN) and Cortez-Masto (D-NV) introduced the [Advancing Frequent and Tailored Education to Rebuild Safe Communities and Help Orchestrate Opportunities and Learning \(AFTER SCHOOL\) Act](#). This bill would establish a new non-competitive \$100 million grant program through the Department of Justice to help schools establish, maintain, and strengthen afterschool programs.
- The first 21CCLC Reauthorization Workgroup was held April 17th by the Afterschool Alliance. Fill out the [interest form](#) if interested in joining the workgroup.
- [Education Dept. Sees Small Cut in Funding Package That Averted Government Shutdown](#)
- [A push for universal after-school gains traction in Albany](#)
- [State legislatures looking to increase investments in afterschool](#)
- [Biden administration calls on Congress to renew funding for internet access](#)
- [Evers signs bill requiring Hmong and Asian American instruction in K-12 schools](#)
- [Be a child care voter](#)
- [How will ESSER fiscal cliffs drive school district budget cuts?](#)

- [Biden proposes new student debt relief plan](#)
- [Low-Profile Budget Item Provides Funding to Afterschool Charity Programs](#)



Daniel Gage
Policy and Advocacy Consultant with WOSTA

Meet Dan, an educator with over 30 years of experience in public schools, the last 25 of which were spent in Green Bay. Throughout his career, Dan has been a strong advocate for out-of-school time (OST) programs, coaching and advising various clubs throughout his career. Since August, he has been serving as a consultant with the WI Afterschool Network, where he has been working to develop advocacy training for both adults and youth. Now, as Stan Kocos transitions into a well-deserved retirement, Dan will be assuming his responsibilities on policy and advocacy efforts.



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

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