

## How to Fill Out ISBE FY26 Budget/Funding Requests

The highlighted language is a suggestion for you to copy and paste in the fields available.

- 1) Go to <https://www.isbe.net/budgetrequestform>
- 2) Enter your name and contact information
- 3) Select which public hearing you plan to attend or that you just wish to submit written testimony
- 4) Click “Add Program Request”
- 5) **For community learning centers:**
  - a. Under “Select a Program”, select “After School Programs”
  - b. Under “Current Funding,” check that it says “\$50,000,000”
  - c. Under “Additional Requested Funding,” enter \$0
  - d. In response to “Please provide the Board with a description of your funding request and sufficient detail to justify the funding request. The Board has identified the following elements be included in this narrative: program description, program goals or what is expected to be accomplished with the funding, including, if possible, baseline data (for a prior year or current year for the program) and estimated data for FY 2025, assuming the funding request is funded and implemented.,” enter the following:
    - i. Afterschool programs are a crucial aspect of students’ educational journey and help to lift up entire communities by providing supportive services to families and necessary child care. Studies show that afterschool programs are sparking students’ interest in school, leading to better school attendance, grades, standardized test scores, and behavior.<sup>1</sup> Afterschool programs also provide a safe haven and help dissuade youth from engaging in risky behaviors on and offline. Studies have found that participants in afterschool programs are 30% less likely to participate in criminal activities.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, afterschool programs are fostering the workforce of today and tomorrow in Illinois by providing essential child care for workers, exposing youth to new career options and teaching workforce skills.
- 6) Click “Add Program Request”
- 7) **For the traditional After-School Programs grant:**
  - a. Under “Select a Program”, select “After-School Programs”
  - b. Under “Current Funding,” check that it says “\$25,000,000”
  - c. Under “Additional Requested Funding,” enter \$0

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<sup>1</sup> Durlak, J.A. & Weissberg R.P. (2010). *Afterschool programs that follow evidence-based practices to promote social and emotional development are effective*. Expanded Learning & Afterschool. Retrieved from [http://www.expandinglearning.org/docs/Durlak&Weissberg\\_Final.pdf](http://www.expandinglearning.org/docs/Durlak&Weissberg_Final.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Afterschool Alliance. (2014). *Taking a deeper dive into afterschool: Positive outcomes and promising practices*. Retrieved from [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Deeper\\_Dive\\_into\\_Afterschool.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Deeper_Dive_into_Afterschool.pdf).

d. In response to “Please provide the Board with a description of your funding request and sufficient detail to justify the funding request. The Board has identified the following elements be included in this narrative: program description, program goals or what is expected to be accomplished with the funding, including, if possible, baseline data (for a prior year or current year for the program) and estimated data for FY 2025, assuming the funding request is funded and implemented.,” enter the following:

i. Afterschool programs are a crucial aspect of students’ educational journey and help to lift up entire communities by providing supportive services to families and necessary child care. Studies show that afterschool programs are sparking students’ interest in school, leading to better school attendance, grades, standardized test scores, and behavior.<sup>3</sup> Afterschool programs also provide a safe haven and help dissuade youth from engaging in risky behaviors on and offline. Studies have found that participants in afterschool programs are 30% less likely to participate in criminal activities.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, afterschool programs are fostering the workforce of today and tomorrow in Illinois by providing essential child care for workers, exposing youth to new career options and teaching workforce skills.

8) Speakers at each hearing will be grouped by the same or similar program requests. If you are testifying about more than one funding request, please select from the drop-down menu which program grouping you would like to join for your testimony.

9) **Make a note of your reference number in case you want to send in additional written comments or register for in-person.** You can email additional comments with your reference number to [ISBEFY26@isbe.net](mailto:ISBEFY26@isbe.net).

10) Then you will be prompted to register for the budget hearing. This is where you will indicate whether you wish you speak or listen-in to the hearing(s). Further, you will be prompted to make note of your reference number.

**Please reach out to Emma Giamberdino (Deputy Director of Policy, Communications, and External Affairs) at [spencere@actnowillinois.org](mailto:spencere@actnowillinois.org) or 312-877-0726 with any questions!**

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<sup>3</sup> Durlak, J.A. & Weissberg R.P. (2010). *Afterschool programs that follow evidence-based practices to promote social and emotional development are effective*. Expanded Learning & Afterschool. Retrieved from [http://www.expandinglearning.org/docs/Durlak&Weissberg\\_Final.pdf](http://www.expandinglearning.org/docs/Durlak&Weissberg_Final.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Afterschool Alliance. (2014). *Taking a deeper dive into afterschool: Positive outcomes and promising practices*. Retrieved from [http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Deeper\\_Dive\\_into\\_Afterschool.pdf](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Deeper_Dive_into_Afterschool.pdf).