

Out-of-School Time (OST)

OST refers to the hours when youth are outside of school, like after school, weekends, or breaks. OST includes activities such as tutoring, enrichment programs, sports, arts, STEM, and other educational and recreational activities to support youth's growth, learning, and well-being. In Illinois, OST funding often supports afterschool programs and community schools.

The Need

For every 1 student in an afterschool program, 4 more are waiting for a spot.

27,000 students from underserved communities lost their afterschool program due to grants ending.

2,000 staff have lost their jobs due to grants ending.

We want to make Illinois the first state in the country that guarantees essential OST programs are available to all youth and families.

Our Campaign Priorities

- 1 Release the \$50 million in FY25 funding for afterschool programs to help provide immediate relief for students and families that need it most.
- 2 Support a continued investment in OST by co-sponsoring and including \$50 million for afterschool programs and community schools in the budget for FY26.
- 3 Fully fund OST efforts in the state budget.
- 4 Ensure efficient fund administration and best practices by creating an OST Council through [SB2036/HB3081](#) to foster collaboration among state agencies, legislators, community organizations, and other stakeholders.

Contact to Learn More:
Susan Stanton
StantonS@actnowillinois.org
312-877-0725

Spring 2025
actnowillinois.org