MI After School & Summer Programs Need
State Budget Support NOW

Throughout the pandemic, community-based after-school and summer learning programs provided excellent OST resources to students and families. Now, OST program leaders are asking for much-needed state legislative support to provide economic relief and the ability to keep students and families strong.

**OST is 100% necessary to support Michigan’s talent pipeline and economic future.**

Today’s policy leaders must take specific action to appropriate supplemental funds for this purpose. We know the funds are there—now all that’s needed is the political will, action and strategic follow-up.

- Funds must be specifically appropriated through a dedicated line item that specifically names community-based OST programs as recipients and/or district partners.
- Adequacy is an issue! Funds must be sufficient to provide meaningful economic relief and ensure program strength as students, families and educators work to address COVID-induced learning loss.

- **OST programs are the state’s most valuable asset in terms of helping all Michigan students re-engage with their learning.**
  - It’s widely recognized **some extended learning time will be needed** to mitigate the learning losses Michigan children experienced during our pandemic year. Proven, local OST programs are ideally positioned to help keep students growing.
  - With **53,200 Michigan students becoming disconnected** from the state’s K–12 system during the pandemic, community organizations offer our best hope for bringing them back. We know these students and their families and **can serve as a link**, particularly for those students whose lives have veered sharply off track due to their unique personal circumstances and unmet learning needs.
  - National data show **roughly half of students** who participate in local OST partnerships are able to **boost their own math and reading grades**. Nearly **70 percent** improve their homework completion and classroom participation efforts.

- **After-school and summer programs also offer essential help for families.**
  - Michigan’s working families have been stretched to the limit when it comes to caring for their children—and overseeing their online learning—during business hours. Local OST programs help provide **socialization, innovative content, and reliable support for all.**
  - Nearly **90 percent of working parents** say community-based after-school and summer programs have **helped them keep their jobs**.
  - Most important of all, OST programs have **helped students cope with the many traumatic issues** they’ve faced during the past year, helping keep families feeling strong. This is particularly important for students who are at risk of educational failure due to poverty, geographic isolation, disability, or other unmet socio-emotional needs.

- **Continued financial support is needed to keep after-school and summer OST programs operating.**

  The need is clear. The structure exists.  
  The time is now.