Script

For Communicating with Policymakers about OST Spending

Thank you for your advocacy! With the help of talented OST programs like yours, we’ll be able to help get Michigan students back on track quickly. Whether you choose to use this document as a script for your legislative conversations or as a starting point for your own written correspondence, its general outline should prove useful to you.

I. Greeting

My name is John Doe and I represent the ABCD Child Program, which offers out-of-school time (OST), including afterschool and summer programs to students in City Name, Michigan.

I am calling to ask for Rep. Lawmaker’s support for a dedicated funding source for my community-based program and others like it. Right now, there is a plan on the table to use state and federal dollars to create a permanent endowment that supports us all for good.

II. Introductory Remarks

Here’s what makes my program so important to the children and families we serve. We keep kids engaged in their own learning after the school day and year have ended. With the support of OST programs, Michigan children can gain critical learning tools and social-emotional support.

Right now, Michigan’s budget doesn’t do enough to ensure all students have access to high-quality afterschool and summer programs. Funds must be specifically appropriated—one time only—to create a lasting source of support statewide.

III. Main Argument

- It’s widely recognized **some extended learning time will be needed** to maximize learning recovery and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. Proven, local OST programs like mine are ideally positioned to help keep students growing.

- 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.

- 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.

IV. Conclusion

With this year’s higher-than-expected revenues, state and federal funds must be specifically appropriated—one time only—to create long-term sustainable funding for community-based out-of-school-time programming. The time is right, and the dollars are there. All we need is your yes vote to make it happen!

**BE SURE TO SAY THANK YOU!!**