

Supporters rally in Lansing to support after school, outside school learning programs

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(Photo: submitted)

Educators, parents and students from across Michigan gathered at the state Capitol in Lansing recently to raise awareness of the need for more critical after-school and summer programs that serve hundreds of thousands of Michigan school children.

That included nearly 50 people from the Wayne-Westland Community Schools district.

The rally was part of a Day of Action, that included meetings with legislators; advocacy training; updates from across the after-school field; and information sessions regarding the need for state investment in after-school programs.

Sponsoring the visits are lawmakers, Rep. Laura Cox, R-Livonia, and Rep. Robert L. Kosowski, D-Westland.

"It is a true honor to be a sponsor for this event," Kosowski said. "After-school and summer programs are vitally important for Michigan's children. In many families, both parents have careers. Programs like these give parents the peace of mind knowing that their children are safe and in an enriching learning environment."

The groups' Day of Action came at a critical time as Congress is considering eliminating the 21st Century Learning Centers initiative serving 2 million children nationwide and 37,600 in Michigan under the Trump administration's budget plan for 2018.

Besides rallying for continued federal support for out-of-school-time, statewide advocates have been calling for significant state investment in after-school and summer programs to serve a wider number of Michigan schoolchildren and help to close the gap on the tremendous unmet needs of working families. The Day of Action will serve to promote the continued success of after-school programs in Michigan.

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