

May, 2022

**Supporting Thriving Students in Michigan: Afterschool and Summer Learning**  
*Urge lawmakers to support \$100 million to expand out-of-school time learning statewide*

The Michigan House and Senate have adopted their own initial budget plans for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year beginning on October 1. Legislators utilize these initial plans to distinguish their most unique priorities before negotiating between chambers and with the Governor, and they expect the final budget to look different from what they have put out right now. This means that advocates have an opportunity to draw sharp distinctions for policymakers regarding which proposals are strong, what could be stronger, and what critical needs are missing.

One key area of concern is in supporting students and their families in recovering from effects of unfinished learning and learning loss. Likely Michigan voters of every political persuasion across our state's diverse regions agree that [supporting students is a top priority for public investment](#).

**Right Now: Governor Gretchen Whitmer has recommended \$50 million total in funding for out-of-school time (OST) learning programs including afterschool and summer programs for FY23 but not the creation of an OST Council. The House has recommended \$50 million in federal one-time funding for OST programs, with 50% dedicated for Intermediate School Districts and 50% dedicated for Community-Based Organizations. The Senate has recommended no funding increase.**

Michigan's Children supports dedicating **\$100 million**, administered through an inter-agency Out-of-School-Time (OST) Council, to:

1. Three-year grants to start-up and re-open programs in areas with community need;
2. Expand existing programs to serve more youth over the next three years;
3. Strengthen the OST workforce through wage increases, professional development and quality enhancement of the field; and
4. Encourage partnerships between school districts and community-based organizations.

**Why Invest in High-Quality Out-of-School Learning Time Opportunities?**

OST programs are proven to help children and youth build critical life skills and academic skills; stay on-track in school; discover post-secondary and career possibilities; and receive well-rounded nutrition. They also strengthen working families by keeping kids safe in the hours before and after school and for the summer. 81% of voters support afterschool opportunities, but [recent analysis](#) identifies that for every program in Michigan, there are 376 students who need access.

Michigan's children will be our next scientists, entrepreneurs, teachers, parents, laborers, artists and lawmakers, but K-12 results show that we are failing them. By the 3rd grade, racial and other disparities already exist in reading. By sixth grade, poor children have spent 6,000 fewer hours learning than their wealthier peers. High school dropout rates remain higher for Black, Hispanic and American Indian students, and students facing life challenges like poverty, disability, foster care, or homelessness. OST programs will help students to further their the academic and social-emotional skills and promote workforce and college readiness.