

June 1, 2021

## **Supporting Thriving Students in the Michigan State Budget: Afterschool and Summer Learning**

Michigan's children will be our next scientists, entrepreneurs, teachers, parents, laborers, artists and lawmakers, and their success will depend on how we help each student process and grow from their own experiences of the past year. Students' readiness to learn will follow patterns that reflect existing inequities without support. When low-income children reach 6th grade, they have spent 6,000 fewer hours learning, resulting in gaps in their academic success. By the third grade, white students are well above their peers of color in reading, and 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.

Out-of-school time learning (OST) programs are one of our most valuable assets for helping students re-engage with learning, supporting school attendance, positive behavior, and achievement through quality, innovative content and relationship-building. The interpersonal skills and behaviors learned at OST programs help children and youth build connections and rebuild from recent trauma. OST programs have been essential for families, keeping children safe, learning, and growing while their parents work. However, there has been no dedicated state funding for these programs since 2011, creating enormous gaps in access across the state.

Families lack the resources to bear the burden of tuition to a high-quality program themselves. The American Rescue Plan Act dedicates \$260 million to the state for programs to address learning loss and provide afterschool and summer learning opportunities, in addition to over \$3 billion to respond to the COVID emergency and bring back jobs. The Michigan After-School Partnership identified a total need of \$138 million to provide high-quality community-based OST programs for students who need them for the next two summers and to support interagency coordination, OST workforce development, and other quality initiatives.

**Current Situation: The House-passed supplemental budget includes \$10 million to reimburse families for the cost of summer learning programming. The Senate has not fully approved a spending plan yet for these funds.**

### **Recommendations**

- **Support \$125 million dedicated to expand afterschool and summer OST program access to 50,000 additional young people over the next two years.**
- **Support \$5 million to create a statewide Out-of-School Time Council to coordinate and provide guidance for OST programs across state agencies.**
- **Support \$7.5 million to create a professional development, data, and quality system for OST programs and staff.**
- **Support \$500,000 to create scholarships for professionals earning their Michigan Youth Development Certificate & Credential.**