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Supporting Thriving Students in Michigan: Afterschool and Summer Learning
Urge Lawmakers to Support \$100 Million to Expand Out-of-School Time Learning Statewide

Michigan's lawmakers are currently considering Governor Whitmer's recommendations and determining their own priorities for spending billions of one-time federal and state revenues for both current-year supplemental spending and for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year, beginning October 1, 2022. One key area of concern is supporting students and their families in recovering from effects of unfinished learning and learning loss which have been prevalent during the pandemic. Likely Michigan voters of every political persuasion across our state's diverse regions agree that [supporting students is a top priority for public investment](#).

Out-of-School Time (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. \$100 million in funding would reduce the current waiting list for afterschool by two-thirds.

Michigan's Children supports dedicating \$100 million, administered through an inter-agency OST Council, to:

1. Fund 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.

Right Now: Governor Gretchen Whitmer has recommended \$50 million total in funding for OST learning programs for FY23 but not the creation of an OST Council. An OST Council would encourage department stakeholders, elected officials, programs, and young people to develop a shared vision for creating out-of-school opportunities that provide the maximum benefit to students and families across the state. The House and Senate have not yet released plans.

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

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 develop their academic and social-emotional skills and promote workforce and college readiness.