

ACT NOW:

Protect 21st
Century
Programming!



We need your voice!

waynemetrol.org/jointhefight



What is Happening?

The Michigan House passed a School Aid budget that **eliminates dedicated funding for Out-of-School Time (OST) programs under Section 32n.**

Instead of maintaining the \$50 million OST grant program administered by MiLEAP, the House budget shifts the funds into general school funding.

Without dedicated funding, programs will close.
Families will lose support. Kids will miss out. **We need you to act now.**



This Toolkit is
Interactive!

What Can You Do to Help?

- **Share stories on social media** of how these programs impact your life.
- **Please urge your representatives in Congress to sustain this funding!**
 - **Add Your Voice**
- **Contact your State Representative and Senator today and urge them to include dedicated OST funding in the final FY25–26 state budget.**
 - Encourage your board members, families, youth, and partners to speak out too. Use the sample message, talking points, and fact sheet below to guide your outreach.

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- Email or write a letter using a [provided template](#).
- Review [Key Messaging Points](#), a [Factsheet](#), as well as the [following pages](#) for more context and information.
- Help elevate youth voices by inviting students to share personal messages with lawmakers.
 - Heartfelt letters from older youth and drawings or short notes from the younger kids can make a powerful impression. Whether it's a crayon-colored card or a letter, these expressions remind decision-makers that real young people are behind these programs and that their futures are directly impacted by funding decisions.
 - [Letter-Writing Prompt for Youth](#)
 - [Drawing Template for Youth](#)
- Invite your legislators and their staff to come visit your program.
 - There's no better way to showcase the power and value of afterschool than showing people firsthand. You do not need to get the Legislator there—having one of their staff join can be incredibly powerful.[Tips for Conducting A Legislative Visit](#)

SHARE THE CAMPAIGN ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH A LINK TO TAKE ACTION.

COPY AND PASTE A STORY BELOW. USE THE CORRESPONDING GRAPHIC IF NEEDED!

ACT NOW: Protect 21st Century from Budget Cuts!

The 2026 federal budget proposes dangerous cuts to the 21st Century program. **The program provides children with a strong educational foundation while enabling parents to pursue employment and career growth.**

These cuts would devastate our communities. We need your voice. It only takes 5 minutes.

#Protect21stCentury #Act4Community



[Square-General Use](#)



[4:5-Instagram](#)

AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMMING



After-school programs provide members of underprivileged groups with much-needed support with their children so that they can manage their work schedules adequately.

From increased social skills in children to improved earning potential in adulthood, there are beneficial components of CCLC programs beyond just the education that children receive.

21st Century Community Learning Centers offer activities related to in-demand industry sectors or occupations that complement the academic program of participating students. Some topics covered by the activities and programs offered by 21st CCLC are financial and environmental literacy, career readiness, internships, and apprenticeships.

Statistics: 21st Century and After-School Programs

- **353,311** Family Members Served
- Among students attending a community learning center,
 **7 out of 10** improved their engagement in learning!
- More than **half** who had a GPA below 3.0 the previous year improved their GPA! 
- A large-scale study of elementary and middle school students found that those who regularly attended high-quality programs (including Community Learning Centers) for more than two years **gained up to 20 percentile points in standardized math test scores** compared with peers who were routinely unsupervised during the after school hours.

AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Statistics: 21st Century and After-School Programs

- The most recent national 21st CCLC annual performance report found that **students in the program saw improvements in:**
 - **Their Engagement in Learning**
 - **School-Day Attendance**
 - **Grades**
 - **Reading and Math State Assessments.**
- More than **5 in 6 parents** with a child in an afterschool program agree that **programs allow them to keep their job or work more hours.**
- More than **8 in 10 parents** agree that **afterschool and summer programs are an absolute necessity for the community** and would like their federal, state, and local leaders to provide more funding to afterschool programs

- **In Michigan,**

87% of students strongly agreed or agreed that their programs helped them make and keep friends.

- A fall 2023 survey found that overwhelming **majorities of 21st CCLC program providers** reported providing:

92% STEM Learning | **85%** Chances to Develop Life Skills | **85%** Leadership Opportunities

- A 2020 evaluation of Massachusetts' 21st CCLC programs reported that **a majority of students improved their:**

68% Relationships With Adults	62% Critical Thinking Skills	59% Leadership Skills
57% Ability to Self-Regulate	55% Perseverance	54% Communication Skills