

# Student Wellness and Success in Ohio: Afterschool Is a Partner



## THE OPPORTUNITY

Governor DeWine's Student Wellness and Success plan allocates \$250M in 2020 and \$300M in 2021 statewide to school districts to provide wraparound services that kids need to thrive, both in and out of school.

This new funding stream gives school districts an opportunity to provide mental health services, mentoring, family engagement and more to students in their district outside of the traditional school day. The plan requires districts to coordinate with at least one community organization. Districts will benefit by partnering with high-quality programs that have expertise in providing wraparound services for students, such as afterschool and summer learning programs.

## PARTNERING WITH AFTERSCHOOL

Districts should consider leveraging existing partnerships with afterschool programs or building new relationships with organizations that provide afterschool in their community. Afterschool provides a flexible environment and has a proven track record for teaching young people social and emotional learning skills, helping them build healthy relationships, increasing resilience, and boosting academic achievement. Afterschool programs also have expertise leveraging community partners, volunteers and parents to help address youth risk factors. Kids who regularly participate in quality afterschool programs:

- Gain self-control and confidence
- Develop strong social skills
- Improve work habits and grades
- Improve school attendance and behavior

### School districts benefit by leveraging partnerships with afterschool programs.

- Protect instructional time by asking how services could be integrated in afterschool time.
- Work with high-quality community organizations to leverage out-of-school time for services students need.
- Make the most of Ohio's investment--for every \$1 spent on quality afterschool and summer learning programs, Ohio saves \$2.18 from reduced criminal activity and substance abuse treatment, as well as additional benefits from increased high school completion and work productivity.

# Student Wellness and Success Happens After School in Ohio

## WHAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS CAN DO

This new funding opportunity positions school districts to provide critically needed services that will help students succeed without compromising instructional time. Here are a few tips to accomplish these goals:

- **Request that afterschool leadership participate in your District Leadership Team's plans.** Invite your local afterschool program to be a part of the conversation about how to create your district's plan. They can explain what they have capacity to do and you can leverage their existing partnerships with other community providers.
- **Be Innovative.** Look at new and innovative ways to utilize these funds with a proven partner. Learn more about the benefits of working with an existing afterschool program: [www.OANOhio.org](http://www.OANOhio.org).
- **Know the Facts.** Review the research about the value of afterschool so you can explain to others in your district why partnering is a great way to invest in student success.
- **Leverage your 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC).** Ohio's existing 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs are already providing high-quality afterschool programs with math and Language Arts tutoring, family engagement and high-quality youth development programs. In Ohio, these programs currently serve 14,000 youth annually in 212 programs.

According to teachers, students who participate in a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC afterschool program improve their math and language arts grades; homework completion; class participation; and behavior in class.

- **Participate in an OAN Webinar or Attend a Planning Workshop.** OAN will host a series of regional planning meetings to help partners identify innovative ways to best maximize this opportunity using evidence-based practices. Visit [www.OANOhio.org](http://www.OANOhio.org) to learn more!

