

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
5 22-101 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-101 new)

7 Sec. 22-101. Out-of-school time.

8 (a) The General Assembly declares that it is the policy of
9 this State to provide all young people between the ages of 6
10 and 19 with access to quality out-of-school time (OST)
11 programs through a State commitment to sufficient and
12 sustainable funding for programs that promote positive youth
13 development. Further, this State is a national leader in the
14 community schools model which helps strengthen OST programs
15 through school and community partnerships in order to meet the
16 whole needs of all children and youth. The need for this policy
17 is based on a series of facts.

18 The General Assembly finds that youth who are engaged in
19 quality OST activities and community schools are more likely
20 to succeed in academics, employment, and civic affairs than
21 youth who do not participate in OST activities. Youth with
22 high levels of participation in quality OST programs miss
23 fewer days of school, have lower drop-out rates, and higher

1 rates of graduation. Further, juvenile crime peaks in the
2 after school hours and OST programs help prevent crime
3 victimization and help youth to make healthy choices.

4 The General Assembly also finds that youth in this State
5 face greater barriers to accessing OST programs than ever
6 before:

7 (1) Demand for programs far outpaces the supply of
8 programs.

9 (2) Funding is fragmented among State agencies.

10 (3) The path to accessing public funding is often
11 difficult.

12 (4) Funding inconsistencies make it difficult to
13 maintain a qualified OST workforce.

14 The General Assembly also finds that the State, having
15 demonstrated national leadership in advancing youth
16 development, must also expand OST programming in order to
17 realize the full, continued benefits of public investment in
18 the State's young people.

19 (b) As used in this Section:

20 "Community school" means public schools that work with the
21 community to improve student outcomes and address the needs of
22 the whole child. All community schools are unique and
23 responsive to their community; however, they all include
24 integrated student supports, expanded learning, family
25 engagement, and collaborative leadership.

26 "Out-of-school time" or "OST" means positive youth

1 development activities provided to youth between the ages of 6
2 and 19 during the hours before or after school, during the
3 school year and summer recess from school, or during the
4 weekends, including, but not limited to: academic support;
5 arts, music, sports, cultural enrichment, and other
6 recreation; health promotion and diseases prevention; life
7 skills and work and career development; and youth leadership
8 development.

9 (c) There is hereby established the Out-of-School Time
10 (OST) Advisory Council for the purpose of providing
11 information and advice to the Governor and State agencies
12 regarding State and federal policy and funding issues
13 affecting out-of-school time programs based on regular and
14 systematic input from providers.

15 (1) The OST Advisory Council shall include
16 representation from both public and private organizations
17 comprised of the following:

18 (A) Four members of the General Assembly: one
19 appointed by the President of the Senate; one
20 appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; one
21 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
22 Representatives; and one appointed by the Minority
23 Leader of the House of Representatives.

24 (B) Representatives from the State Board of
25 Education, the Department of Human Services, the
26 Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and

1 the Department of Early Childhood.

2 (C) Three OST providers from various settings.

3 (D) A community school lead partner agency.

4 (E) A private philanthropic funder.

5 (F) A principal of a school that has OST or the
6 community schools model.

7 (G) A superintendent of a school district that has
8 OST or the community schools model.

9 (H) An OST researcher or evaluator.

10 (I) Additional public members that have an
11 interest in OST, including law enforcement, business,
12 and youth advocacy.

13 The OST Advisory Council membership shall be
14 representative of the diversity of out-of-school programs
15 regarding geography, size, and public or nonpublic
16 operation.

17 (2) The Governor shall designate one of the OST
18 Advisory Council members who is a nongovernment
19 stakeholder to serve as co-chairperson and a State agency
20 representative as a chair.

21 (3) The OST Advisory Council shall meet no less than 4
22 times a year.

23 (d) The OST Advisory Council shall do all of the
24 following:

25 (1) Provide information on the status of funding
26 provided for OST programs in each fiscal year, including

1 the number of applications received, the number of
2 applications funded, and the amount and timing of
3 committed funding.

4 (2) Provide recommendations on legislative and
5 administrative action needed to ensure that funding for
6 before and after school programs is allocated promptly to
7 qualified providers of OST programs.

8 (3) Provide information on the quality of services and
9 accountability measures that are appropriate for
10 school-age children and youth.

11 (4) Provide information regarding challenges faced by
12 OST programs that impede the provision of the best
13 possible services.

14 (5) Provide recommendations on the equitable reach of
15 OST programs to ensure that the State has policies in
16 place that promote access to the children and youth most
17 in need of services, including, but not limited to,
18 students of color, low-income communities, rural
19 communities and other marginalized communities.

20 (6) Make recommendations to the Governor and State
21 agencies on reporting requirements, priority points,
22 statewide evaluation, and licensure for OST programs.

23 (7) Create and deliver to the Governor and General
24 Assembly an annual report on statewide successes in OST
25 and areas of growth for the future.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,

1 2025.