

SB2329



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2329

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Ram Villivalam

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

Appropriates \$50,000,000 to the State Board of Education for the purpose of providing grants for community learning centers to support afterschool programs and community schools. Effective July 1, 2025.

LRB104 11113 LNS 21195 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning appropriations.

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

4 Section 5. Findings; grants.

5 (a) The General Assembly finds all the following:

6 (1) A strong research base supports that afterschool
7 programs and community schools improve academic achievement,
8 support social and emotional growth, help keep communities
9 safe, and support the needs of working families.

10 (2) Data supports that there is always a greater need for
11 these programs than there is funding for programming.

12 (3) Students and families in all communities should have
13 access to these services regardless of income status.

14 (4) Illinois as a nationwide leader in child development
15 recognizes that we must move towards an education system that
16 provides afterschool for all.

17 (b) The State Board of Education shall make grants
18 available for community learning centers separate and apart
19 from any federal appropriations.

20 (1) The purpose of community learning center programs is to
21 provide opportunities to establish or expand activities that:

22 (A) provide opportunities for academic enrichment,
23 including providing tutorial services to help students
24 (particularly students who attend low-performing schools), to

1 meet the challenging state academic standards;

2 (B) offer students a broad array of additional services,
3 programs, and activities, such as youth development
4 activities, service learning, nutrition and health education,
5 drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs,
6 arts, music, physical fitness, and wellness programs,
7 technology education programs, financial literacy programs,
8 environmental literacy programs, mathematics, science, and
9 career and technical education programs, internship or
10 apprenticeship programs, and other ties to an in-demand
11 industry sector or occupation for high school students that
12 are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic
13 program of participating students;

14 (C) offer families of students served by community
15 learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful
16 engagement in their children's education, including
17 opportunities for literacy and related educational
18 development; and

19 (D) support the whole needs of students including
20 providing extended learning time, integrated students support,
21 family engagement, and collaborative leadership structures in
22 schools as part of the community schools model, as research
23 validated strategy to promote equity in education.

24 (2) Public and private entities, including Local Education
25 Agencies, such as public school districts, public university
26 laboratory schools approved by the State Board of Education,

1 State authorized charter schools, area vocational centers,
2 Regional Offices of Education, Intermediate Service Centers,
3 community-based organizations, including faith-based
4 organizations, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, as
5 defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act,
6 and other public and private entities or a consortium of two or
7 more such agencies, organizations, or entities are eligible to
8 apply.

9 (3) Each grantee must propose to serve high-poverty schools
10 or schools eligible for schoolwide programs under Section 1114
11 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by
12 the Every Student Succeeds Act Title I Part A, such as schools
13 in which not less than 40% of the children are from low-income
14 families.

15 (4) Individual awards should not exceed \$225,000 per site,
16 such as the physical location where grant-funded services and
17 activities are provided to participating students and adults.

18 (5) Successful applicants may reapply via continuing
19 application for up to 4 additional years. Funding in the
20 subsequent years will be contingent upon compliance with
21 federal and State law, State grant-making rules, passage of
22 sufficient appropriations for the program, and satisfactory
23 performance in the preceding grant period.

24 (6) The State Board of Education shall issue a grant
25 application to select a technical assistance provider to
26 support grantees. Grantees must participate in compliance and

1 technical assistance activities. This technical assistance
2 provider must also develop an advisory board of grantees to
3 provide feedback to the State Board of Education on the
4 feasibility of grant management practices and the needs of the
5 students.

6 (7) The program objectives of this grant are:

7 (A) Schools will improve student achievement in core
8 academic areas.

9 (B) Schools will show an increase in student attendance
10 and graduation from high school.

11 (C) Schools will see an increase in the social-emotional
12 skills of their students.

13 (D) Programs will collaborate with the community.

14 (E) Programs will coordinate with schools to determine the
15 students and families with the greatest need.

16 (F) Programs will provide ongoing professional development
17 to program personnel.

18 (G) Programs will collaborate with schools and
19 community-based organizations to provide sustainable programs.

20 Elements of the community school's model can be offered by
21 community learning centers.

22 The State Board of Education must provide public reports
23 annually on the spending of this programming and plans for
24 future competitions.

25 The State Board of Education must issue continuing
26 application materials annually within 30 days of the start of

1 the fiscal year.

2 The State Board of Education must name a technical
3 assistance provider to support these grantees.

4 Section 10. The amount of \$50,000,000, or so much of that
5 amount as may be necessary, is appropriated from the General
6 Revenue Fund to the State Board of Education for the purpose of
7 providing grants for community learning centers to support
8 afterschool programs and community schools.

9 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
10 2025.