

Building Opportunity through Out of School Time (BOOST) Program Act

- Today, more families struggle to find and afford afterschool and summer learning programs. According to data from a 2020 survey, over 775,000 Pennsylvania students would participate in an afterschool program, if one were available to them.
- Out-of-School Time (OST) programs provide students with a ladder of support that helps them reach their full potential, offering a step up to discover who they are and what they love to do.
- These programs are reshaping Pennsylvania's future workforce by building new pathways for STEM education, community resources, and professional development.
- ***In June of 2021, the Joint State Government Commission released a report on the return-on-investment (ROI) for investing in OST in Pennsylvania. The ROI for OST Programs is \$6.69 to \$1.***
- ***The Joint State Government Commission report also recommended that a statewide, comprehensive, and stable source of funding should reflect the diversity of the Commonwealth's OST programs. Community-based OST providers should have equitable access to the funding.***
- The BOOST Act, prime sponsored by Reps. Schlossberg and Schlegel-Culver, would provide a that statewide, comprehensive, and stable source of funding.
- The BOOST Act will dedicate \$50 million from the state's General Fund specifically to go towards before-and afterschool programming and summer enrichment.

- This will empower statewide organizations such as Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCAs but also local, smaller organizations to bolster their existing programs and allow them to create more across the state, particularly in our most underserved communities.
- The BOOST Act would provide funding to any eligible organization who provides the following services to Pennsylvania students:
 - Improving social, emotional, academic or vocational competencies of school-age youth;
 - Preventing and reducing teen pregnancies;
 - Reducing negative behaviors such as violence and crime, tobacco use, alcohol and substance abuse, disengagement from school, school suspension and truancy, and health-compromising behaviors;
 - Providing parents with a safe OST environment for their children;
 - Allowing school-age children to engage in career exploration and formal or informal apprenticeships; and/or
 - Any other services approved by PDE.
- I ask you to support the BOOST program by cosponsoring and supporting the BOOST bill which will help all OST providers serving youth and families across the Commonwealth.