

The Power of Out-of-School Time (OST) in Georgia

Out-of-school time (OST) programs include afterschool programs, summer enrichment programs and camps, as well as before school and weekend programs.

- In 2020, for every child in an afterschool program in Georgia, [2 more were waiting to get in](#).
- 40 of Georgia's 159 counties do not have government funded programs. [GSAN's Interactive OST Map](#) shows over half of these counties also have low 3rd grade literacy rates & other indicators of low child well-being.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

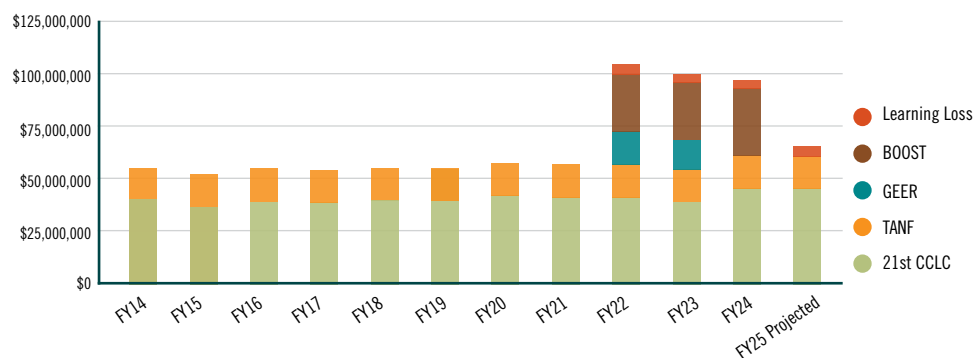
1. Create and fund Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) 2.0 grant program, an out-of-school time (OST) grants program modeled after the Building Opportunities for Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants program, at \$20 million housed at the Georgia Department of Education and building off the existing infrastructure and partnerships of BOOST.
2. Create and fund an interagency liaison to coordinate afterschool and summer programming between the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, and Georgia Department of Education.

For more details, turn to page 4.

OST FUNDING SOURCES & AGENCIES

- **21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC):** The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) administers the 21st CCLC program to provide opportunities for academic enrichment and tutorial services via \$45 million in federal funding.
- **Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS):** The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning provides scholarships via Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) to assist low-income families with the cost of childcare while they work, go to school or training, or participate in other work-related activities.
- **Out-of-School Services Program:** The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services provides \$15.5 million via Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) to organizations serving low-to-moderate income communities & the foster care system during the out-of-school time.
- **Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST):** GaDOE, in partnership with GSAN, supports the expansion of access to evidence-based afterschool and summer learning programs and improved programmatic quality via \$85 million in COVID-19 relief funding over 3 years.
- **Learning Loss Grants:** The Georgia Division of Family & Children Services administers via the United Way of Greater Atlanta \$4.6 million in state revenue allocated by the Georgia General Assembly to organizations who provide programming to reduce learning loss for Georgia's youth.

INVESTMENTS IN OST OVER TIME



BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES IN OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (BOOST) GRANTS PROGRAM

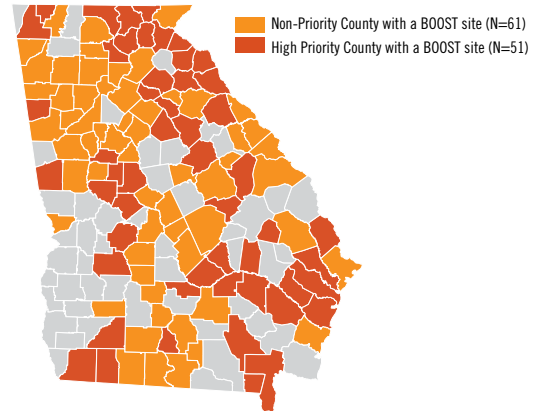
GSAN, in partnership with GaDOE, administers BOOST to:

- Expand access to serve more youth, emphasizing children most impacted by the pandemic;
- Strengthen programmatic quality and expand and enhance the support and services offered; and
- Reduce barriers to OST participation, such as transportation and enrollment costs, to ensure admissions for all youth.

In year 2, BOOST grantees operated **1000+** sites in **112** Georgia counties. **97** grantees served nearly **80,000 kids** in afterschool and **87,000 kids** in summer programs. The most reported grantee success included:

- Improved school outcomes,
- Enhanced well-being and connectedness,
- Increased life skills, and
- Increased access to expanded supports and services.

Detailed BOOST Grants Program Year 1 Reports can be found [here](#).



GEORGIA'S ALLIANCE OF YMCA'S

BOOST, providing \$17.6 million over 3 years, was the Georgia Alliance of YMCA's first statewide grant and allowed them to serve in 55 counties via 203 sites. The grant allowed for the collection of statewide program data for the first time, development of peer groups among Y associations, increased training and retention of staff, technical support the Alliance and GSAN to Y associations, increased local partnerships with schools and community organizations, improved student outcomes, and enhanced local practices and offerings such as STEAM programming and Safety Around Water delivery.

Afterschool Outcomes:

- 80% of regularly attending students participated in weekly STEAM activities that promoted innovative and critical thinking.
- 80% of regularly attending students learned about healthy living through nutrition, fresh foods, & physical activities.
- 60% of parents surveyed report the program helped to progress their child's learning and preparedness for school.

Summer Outcomes:

- 75% of regularly attending students completed 1,200 minutes of reading to help curb summer learning loss (8-week summer session 30 min reading/per day).
- 80% of regularly attending students received safety around water instruction and demonstrated increased knowledge of healthy choices (9,744 students).
- 80% of regularly attending students can identify careers in areas they are interested in and have participated in at least 1 community service project.

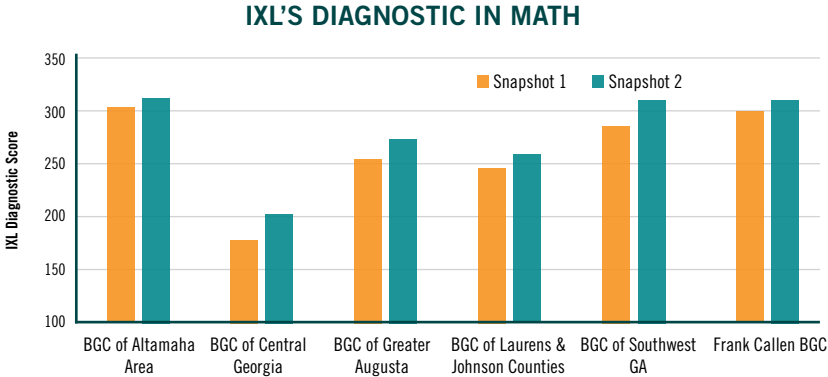
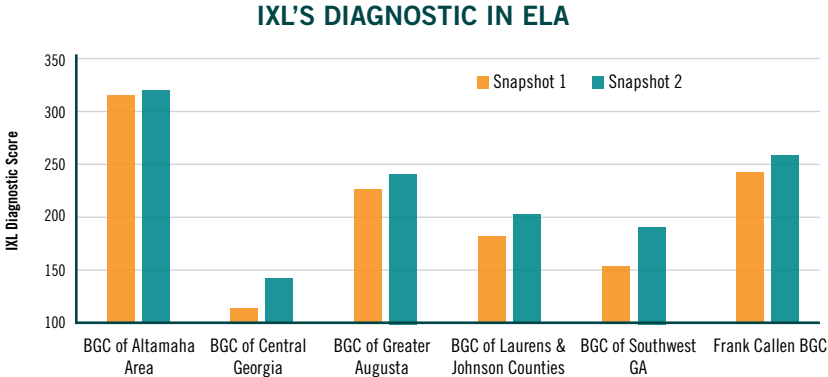
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GEORGIA

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Georgia is receiving \$17.6 million in BOOST funds over 3 years. BOOST allowed more than 14,000 youth to participate in holistic programs and reduction in barriers to OST participation in more than 50 counties. In addition, Boys & Girls Clubs of Georgia also received \$27 million in Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds that allowed them to serve more than 26,000 youth with enhanced academic services, with 95% of teens expecting to graduate high school and pursue college, trade, or vocational school and 95% of youth reporting being on grade level (5th to 12th grade). Through resources, staff trainings and youth-centered programming, local Clubs equip young people with the skills they need to manage their emotions and build resiliency so they can engage in every opportunity that comes their way. Mental and emotional support systems at Clubs are proven to generate positive coping skills in youth such as higher stress management skills, impulse control, higher problem solving and perseverance skills.

2021-2022 (End of Year)	2022-2023 (Mid-Year)
45,169 + Youth Accessed Boys & Girls Clubs	43,892 + Youth Accessed Boys & Girls Clubs
26,266+ Youth Participated in Academic Enrichment & Resiliency Programs	21,577+ Youth Participated in Academic Enrichment & Resiliency Programs
11,200+ Youth Received Targeted Academic Services & Tutoring	17,577 Youth Received Targeted Academic Services & Tutoring
130+ Locations across more than 60 counties	130+ Locations across more than 60 counties

Impact on English Language Arts & Math

Students experienced growth between the two Diagnostic administrations, even though they were only separated by a short amount of time (5 weeks). Score gains ranged from 10-250 points (math) and 10-220 points (ELA). This means that in both subjects, students experienced up to 2 grade levels of growth in less than 2 months.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

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 - a. Creation of a statewide framework that expands access to and assures quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities.
 - b. Prioritization of funding support to OST programs that serve vulnerable youth, such as those who are economically disadvantaged, have a disability, and English language learners.
 - c. Utilization of existing state infrastructure to provide training and technical assistance to OST providers in four targeted areas: fiscal administration, quality measurement, program effectiveness, and provider leadership.
 - d. Leveraging the program evaluation and evidence collection strategies embedded within the BOOST grant to determine how to best serve current and prospective afterschool and summer learning providers in the future.
2. Create and fund an interagency liaison to coordinate afterschool and summer programming between the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, and Georgia Department of Education. Policymakers may consider placing the liaison in Georgia Department of Education (Office of Whole Child Supports). This will facilitate:
 - a. Alignment and coordination of OST services provided to youth and families.
 - b. Consensus on best models and practices for programming.
 - c. Development of reliable protocols for effective and efficient interagency communication regarding implementation of similar youth enrichment programs.
 - d. Streamlining of grant application and administration to lower barriers of access to government funding for smaller organizations.
 - e. Streamlining of training, technical assistance, and professional learning provided to organizations funded and/or licensed by the agencies.