

# The Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) Grants Program



In 2021, the Georgia Department of Education partnered with the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) to develop the Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. BOOST was designed to distribute approximately \$85 million over three years to expand access to and improve the quality of summer enrichment opportunities and comprehensive afterschool programming for K-12 youth across Georgia.

**BOOST grants support youth's academic acceleration, connectedness and well-being, utilizing a whole child approach to:**



**Expand Access**



**Reduce Barriers**



**Strengthen Program Quality**

## Outreach and Impact

**BOOST Year 2 At-a-Glance** ✓

**\$26,185,362**

FUNDS AWARDED

**97**

TOTAL GRANTEES

**112**

GEORGIA COUNTIES

**1,146**

ACADEMIC YEAR SITES

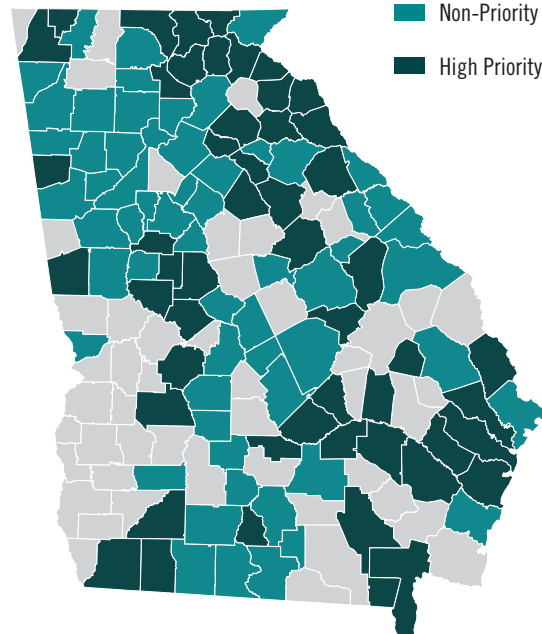
**639**

SUMMER SITES

**79,911 Academic Year**

**86,924 Summer**

YOUTH SERVED



## Most Frequently Reported Implementation Successes



**Improving academic learning**

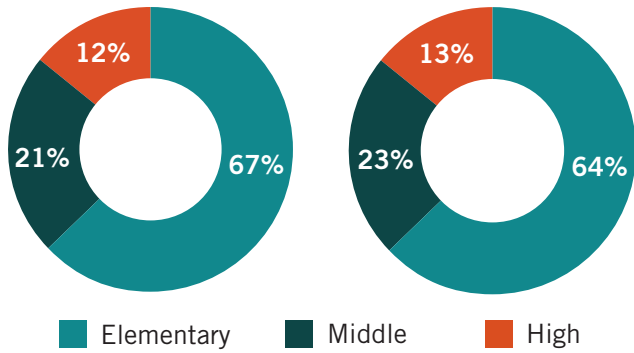


**Improved mental health, well-being, & connectedness**



**Exposing youth to new content or programs**

### YOUTH SERVED BY GRADE LEVEL



### Priority Youth Populations Served

- Youth receiving free or reduced-price lunch
- Youth with disabilities
- Youth experiencing homelessness
- Youth experiencing foster care
- English language learners
- Migratory youth

## Youth Outcomes

With guidance from evaluation experts, grantees established 3 key outcomes across four service areas. Nearly all grantees met or exceeded at one of their outcome during the academic year (93%) and summer (99%).

Academic Year	OUTCOMES MET OR EXCEEDED PER SERVICE AREA	Summer
82%	Learning Acceleration	85%
75%	Enrichment	71%
69%	Well-Being & Connectedness	77%
95%	Healthy Eating & Physical Activity	81%

### Grantee Spotlight (Academic Assessment)

*“iReady diagnostic results along with grade reports allow teachers to establish collaborative groups to focus on reading and math...The data results show an 80% success rate with 170 students out of the target number of 213 on track to make an increase by one grade level in their academic performance.” – Augusta Richmond County Juvenile Court*

## Infrastructure and Sustainability

Stakeholder interviews indicated that BOOST was viewed as a positive force in enhancing that state’s broader out-of-school time (OST) programming infrastructure, particularly through sustainable public-private partnerships and cross-sector collaboration. Grantee case studies also highlighted that the BOOST program elevated the quality and depth of Georgia’s OST programming. Stakeholders agreed that BOOST (or a comparable form of support) should continue to support OST programs for Georgia’s youth.

*“I think the value added of [having GSAN involved] is it shows that—through a combination of a partnership with the state education agency and a statewide intermediary, or an entity like GSAN—you can use [public] funds... to run a competition and have a positive impact.”*  
 – Key Stakeholder Informant

*“There are not enough slots for kids to have programming. Why is that? In some cases, it’s because there aren’t enough organizations, but for the most part, it’s because those organizations don’t have enough money.”*  
 – Key Stakeholder Informant

Access All BOOST Reports