

# Out-of-School Time Position Statement

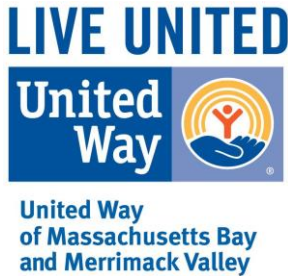
Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership



Massachusetts Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs



United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley



Alliance of Massachusetts YMCAs



Massachusetts Association of Early Education & Care



The following document outlines requests from afterschool and out-of-school time providers to the Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Early Education and Care (EEC). These requests are based on conversations with providers, school districts, and state officials over the course of the reopening process. As of the writing of this paper, many schools are opting for full remote learning. Districts are looking to community-based providers to help high-needs students during normal school hours. Providers are up to the task but require more guidance from the respective departments, increased knowledge about potential funding

opportunities, and greater opportunities for joint planning and resource sharing between schools and OST providers.

#### Immediate Opportunities for Engagement:

1. Explicit language to districts and schools that makes them aware of current funding that has been released and is eligible for funding of OST programs. This includes:
  - a. FY2021: CvRF School Reopening Grant Program  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2021/102>
    - i. \$182 million in total funding available to school districts.
    - ii. \$225 per pupil.
    - iii. Can be used for “innovative efforts to support the safe reopening of schools”.
  - b. FY2021: Summer and Vacation Learning Program Grant  
[\(http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2021/114-333-238/\)](http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2021/114-333-238/)
    - i. \$10,000-\$12,000 per option.
    - ii. Allowable uses include: summer learning, school vacation learning programs, or school year weekend learning programs.
  - c. FY2021: Remote Learning Technology Essentials  
[\(http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2021/117-118/\)](http://www.doe.mass.edu/grants/2021/117-118/)
    - i. \$25 million in total funding available to school districts.
    - ii. Used to support local education agency efforts to ensure all students have access to devices and internet services necessary for remote learning opportunities.
2. Clarity and updates around primary funding sources for afterschool including 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).
  - a. EEC should adopt the interpretation (allowed by the federal Office of Child Care) that CCDF funds may be used to reimburse child care services when children are completing remote, virtual, or online schoolwork or instruction while in afterschool programs, and be paid for full day/full time care. (See questions 27 and 28 of the CCDF FAQ: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/occ/resource/ccdf-faqs-in-response-to-covid-19>)
  - b. DESE should allow reimbursement from 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC for services provided to children who are completing remote, virtual, or online schoolwork or instruction while in 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs.
  - c. EEC and DESE should reallocate discretionary funding sources to increase support for out-of-school time learning.
  - d. EEC and DESE should provide hazard pay for out-of-school time educators.
3. Alignment between EEC/DESE

- a. All regulations and guidance concerning licensing, use of space, and funding should be created jointly between EEC and DESE.
- b. There are currently two sets of guidance being developed independently by each agency. The two agencies should compare, crosswalk, and edit their guidance before releasing it to the field.
- c. Release guidance explicitly outlining the steps necessary to use space that may be licensed by another agency (for example: a library, school classroom, or a childcare center).
  - i. Consider offering existing community-based providers first access to operate in unoccupied school spaces or buildings, and lending extra furniture (e.g. chairs and desks) and technology devices (e.g. Chromebooks) to OST partners if available.
- d. Use a joint agency communication channel to relay ALL health and safety news and advice. If schools and community-based afterschool programs are working closely, they must receive pertinent health and safety advice from one source.
  - i. Provide health and safety guidance for community-based providers who serve students from multiple schools to mitigate risks associated with intermingling student groups.
  - ii. Allow community-based OST providers to bulk purchase PPE and cleaning supplies alongside schools.
- e. All guidance needs to be released rapidly. The field needs adequate time to plan, acquire space, and hire staff and we are currently five weeks away from school start dates.