



February 5, 2024

To: [Chair Courtney Neron](#), Vice Chairs [Hudson](#) and [Wright](#), and Representatives [Cramer](#), [McIntire](#), [Nguyen](#), and [Valderama](#)

[House Committee on Education](#)

Re: **HB 4082** – Summer Learning for 2024 and Beyond – **Support**

On behalf of Washington County Kids, a nonprofit dedicated to increasing access to out of school time (OST-early childhood, after school, and summer) programs, we urge you to support the passage of HB 4082 which requires ODE to provide \$50 million for a summer learning grant program and form a work group to implement support for afterschool and summer programs in future years.

In 2022 we were able to act as fiscal sponsor for Champions to provide summer enrichment for 436 kids, 95% of whom were from low income families. In 2023, none of those families were able to obtain summer care.

Research shows that OST programs promote academic success, higher graduation rates, positive behavior and safety, and good citizenship ([After School Alliance, 2014](#); [Vandell, et. al., 2020](#)). Quality child care and after-school programs have long term effects on graduation and eventual career success ([Parks, 2000](#)). By the time they reach 5<sup>th</sup> grade children who are economically disadvantaged who do not participate in summer programs average 3 years behind their middle-income peers who do participate ([Rand, 2015](#)). A meta-analysis of 213 OST programs found that participation significantly improved social and emotional skills, attitudes, behavior, and academic performance, resulting in an 11 percentile point gain in achievement ([Durlak and Weissberg, 2011](#)). In addition, most programs include some federally-subsidized nutrition which increases overall health and the ability to function in school.

These programs also impact the workforce. Women who utilize quality out of school time care have fewer absences and earn more. In addition, the families benefit by reduced costs that free up a significant part of the family's hard-earned income to pay for housing, food, and medical care ([McCluskey, 2018](#)).

In a recent [study](#) of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade language arts and math scores in Washington County before and after the pandemic it was clear that kids from economically disadvantaged homes fell much further behind than their peers. School alone cannot provide the support needed for them to catch up. HB 4082 will provide support for summer 2024 and the formation of a work group can help to ensure future support for afterschool and summer programs for the kids who need it the most.

We urge your support of HB 4082.

Sincerely,

Katie Riley, Ed.D.  
President

Cc: [Representative Susan McLain](#)  
[Beth Unverzagt](#)