

RHODE ISLAND AFTERSCHOOL NETWORK

BOOST BILL - H7501 / S2452



**CALLING
ALL OST
CHAMPS**
(OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME)



**BOOST BILL
FACTSHEET**

Strengthening Youth Mental Health Through Community-Based Programs

Rhode Island's young people are facing a growing mental health crisis. The BOOST Bill makes a targeted investment in out-of-school time (OST) programs, trusted community spaces where young people already gather outside the school day.

These programs are uniquely positioned to support youth well-being through relationships, mentoring, and prevention-based supports, but many are under increasing strain due to reductions in federal education and student support funding.

The Problem

- Rhode Island declared a State of Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health in 2022.
- Mental health challenges affect students' well-being, school engagement, family stability, and long-term outcomes.
- Federal funding reductions are placing additional strain on school-based support systems.
- Community-based youth programs often lack dedicated resources to address growing mental health needs.

The BOOST Solution

\$100,000 in OST funding to support:

- Youth Mental Health First Aid training
- Peer support groups and mentoring programs
- Youth-led mental health initiatives
- Social-emotional learning materials and curricula
- Wellness projects, workshops, and creative programming
- Community-informed approaches that promote prevention and connection to care

Who Benefits

The BOOST Bill supports:

- Rhode Island youth and families
- Community-based afterschool and summer programs
- Schools and communities working to address youth mental health challenges
- Prevention-based approaches that reduce pressure on crisis systems

A Small Investment with Big Impact

BOOST strengthens an existing statewide network of youth-serving programs already supporting thousands of young people each year.

By investing in prevention, connection, and community-based supports, Rhode Island can help ensure young people have the relationships and resources they need to thrive.

