



March 2, 2026

The Honorable Matt Dubnik  
Subcommittee Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Education  
Georgia House of Representatives  
245-D State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Will Wade  
Vice Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Education  
Georgia House of Representatives  
109 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Chairman Dubnik and Vice Chairman Wade:

On behalf of Health Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT), we write to urge the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education to support an additional \$7.5 million in the FY2027 budget to reach the necessary capacity needed to help fund quality afterschool and summer learning programs across the state which are critical to student success. [H-STAT](#) represents the collective voices of hundreds of healthcare students and trainees across Georgia who are dedicated to improving health outcomes for all citizens. We urge the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education to support this funding.

The Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants provide necessary afterschool and summer learning grants to enhance student literacy, mental health, and career-ready skills, all while encouraging school attendance and supporting working parents. These dollars are supporting afterschool and summer learning in 117 of Georgia's 159 counties and expect to serve over 50,000 kids this school year. The [benefits provided](#) by BOOST grants are evident. Grantees achieved key outcomes in several service areas such as well-being and connectedness, enrichment, and healthy eating and physical activity. Similar [after-school programs](#) across the country have found child participation in these programs significantly increases English and Math grades and overall child health. Unfortunately, with over \$30 million in grants requested this first round of funding was only able to support a fraction (44%) of qualified applications, leaving many high-quality programs struggling to serve to their full potential.

In conclusion, we support funding for the BOOST grants, as it improves child health and academic outcomes in our state. Thank you for your consideration of the issue. We look forward to working with

you to promote the health of people in Georgia. If you have any questions, please contact Nicholas Wilson, H-STAT President, at [nicholas@healthstatgeorgia.org](mailto:nicholas@healthstatgeorgia.org).

Sincerely,

Nicholas Wilson  
H-STAT President  
Health Students Taking Action Together