

TESTIMONY

Testimony To: Senate Education

Respectfully Submitted by: The Agency of Education

Subject: S.232 - An act relating to public libraries and the Department of Libraries

Date: February 24, 2026

Thank you for the opportunity to provide follow-up testimony on S.232. The Agency has concerns about [Section 3 of Draft 3.1](#), as it represents a reduction in funding for universal afterschool. To be clear, libraries are already eligible to receive this funding under current statute. Creating a separate allocation is not necessary to ensure their participation and would reduce the overall amount of funding available for other entities, making access to funding less equitable, not more. This specific call out could also encourage future carve-outs from the fund, placing the Agency in a challenging position if additional interest groups seek dedicated allocations that would fragment the funding stream.

These funds were intentionally established to expand access to high-quality, equitable after-school opportunities for Vermont students. The Agency has strong parameters in place to ensure quality, accountability, and equitable distribution of state tax dollars. Additionally, the Agency has expanded the overall portfolio of grant programs to support with technical assistance, capacity building, and regional enrichment offerings. Diverting a portion of this funding risks undermining that framework, weakening the impact of the investment, and reducing access to universal afterschool.

The information below is provided in response to a request from the Committee. For additional detail on how afterschool funds are distributed, please see the [2025 Afterschool Report](#)

Successful Applicants

(LEA – Local Education Agency, MUN – Municipality, CBO – Community-based Organization)

Applicant Name	Annual Award Amount	Applicant Type	Year Awarded	Towns Served
Acorn Youth Arts, Inc.	\$75,000.00	CBO	2025	Barre; Barre City; Berlin; Bradford; Calais; Chelsea; Montpelier; Newbury; Orange; Northfield; Topsham; Washington; Williamstown; Corinth; Duxbury; Fayston; Warren; Waitsfield; Waterbury
Addison Central School District	\$74,966.00	LEA	2025	Bridport; Shoreham
Addison Northwest SU	\$225,000.00	LEA	2024, 2025, 2026	Addison; Ferrisburgh; Panton; Vergennes; Waltham
The Barra School	\$150,000.00	CBO	2025	Barre; Barre City; Bradford; Corinth; Orange; Topsham; Williamstown; Newbury
Boys and Girls Club of Brattleboro Inc	\$150,000.00	CBO	2024	Brattleboro; Dover; Dummerston; Marlboro; Newfane; Putney; Rockingham; Townshend; Wilmington
Boys and Girls Club of Rutland	\$56,552.00	CBO	2026	Rutland
Burlington SD	\$135,000.00	LEA	2026	Burlington
Caledonia Central SU	\$206,193.00	LEA	2024	Barnet; Danville; Marshfield; Peacham; Plainfield; Waterford; Walden; Cabot
City of Vergennes	\$75,000.00	MUN	2026	Vergennes
The DREAM Program	\$60,000.00	CBO	2025	Milton; Winooski; Burlington; St. Albans; Middlebury; Colchester; Windsor; Bennington
Essex North SU	\$214,620.00	LEA	2025	Averill; Bloomfield; Canaan; Maidstone; Norton; Lemington
Franklin Northeast SU	\$108,600.00	LEA	2024, 2025	Bakersfield; Berkshire; Enosburgh; Montgomery; Richford; Sheldon
Governor's Institutes of Vermont. Inc.	\$50,000.00	CBO	2025	Statewide Impact

Applicant Name	Annual Award Amount	Applicant Type	Year Awarded	Towns Served
Kingdom East UUSD	\$235,000.00	LEA	2024, 2026	Burke; Concord; Lyndon; Lunenburg; Newark; Sutton; Sheffield; Wheelock
King Street Center, Inc.	\$127,488.00	CBO	2024, 2025	Burlington
Lake Champlain Community Sailing Center	\$20,818.00	CBO	2026	Burlington
Lamoille South SU	\$75,000.00	CBO	2026	Morrisville
Maple Run Unified School District	\$75,000.00	LEA	2025	St. Albans City
Milton SD	\$149,981.00	LEA	2025	Milton;
Missisquoi Valley SD	\$131,022.00	LEA	2024, 2026	Franklin; Highgate; Swanton
Montshire Museum of Science	\$42,421.00	CBO	2024	Northfield; Washington; Williamstown; Brattleboro
Mt. Abraham Unified School District	\$149,949.00	LEA	2025	Bristol; New Haven; Monkton; Starksboro;
North East Kingdom Community Action, Inc	\$150,000.00	CBO	2024	Barton; Brownington; Albany; Westfield; Derby; Glover; Irasburg; Westmore; Coventry; Craftsbury; Lowell; Troy; Greensboro; Charleston; Holland; Jay
North Country SU	\$225,000.00	LEA	2025	Brighton; Charleston; Coventry; Derby; Holland; Jay; Lowell; Morgan; Newport; Newport City; Troy; Westfield
Orange East SU	\$74,302.00	LEA	2025	Bradford; Corinth; Groton; Newbury; Thetford

Applicant Name	Annual Award Amount	Applicant Type	Year Awarded	Towns Served
Orange Southwest Unified Union School District	\$94,103.56	LEA	2024	Braintree; Brookfield; Randolph; Roxbury
Orleans Central SU	\$10,000.00	LEA	2026	Orleans; Brownington; Albany; Irasburg; Glover; Barton
Orleans Southwest SU	\$225,000.00	LEA	2025	Craftsbury; Greensboro; Hardwick; Wolcott; Woodbury; Stannard
Paran Recreations, Inc.	\$56,046.99	CBO	2024	Arlington; Bennington; Manchester; Pownal; Shaftsbury; Woodford
Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary	\$238,060.00	CBO	2025	Barre City; Barre; Orange
Special Needs Support Center of the Upper Valley	\$60,000.00	CBO	2025	Hartford; Hartland; Norwich; Thetford; Tunbridge
St. Johnsbury SD	\$225,000.00	LEA	2025	St. Johnsbury
Town of Wilmington	\$28,294.00	MUN	2026	Wilmington
University of Vermont Extension Migrant Education Program	\$66,773.00	CBO	2024	Statewide Impact
Vermont Works for Women	\$41,945.00	CBO	2024	Arlington; Barre; Burlington; Cabot; Calais; Colchester; Craftsbury; East Montpelier; Essex; Fairfax; Fletcher; Georgia; Montpelier; Newport; Plainfield; Richmond; Shelburne; Waitsfield; Williston
Washington Central UUSD	\$75,000.00	LEA	2026	East Montpelier
White River Valley SU	\$525,000.00	LEA	2024, 2025	Bethel; Chelsea; Rochester; Royalton; Sharon; Strafford; Stockbridge; Tunbridge
Windham Central SU	\$149,989.00	LEA	2025	Brookline; Jamaica; Newfane; Townshend
Windham Southeast SU	\$152,340.00	LEA	2024, 2026	Brattleboro

Applicant Name	Annual Award Amount	Applicant Type	Year Awarded	Towns Served
Windham Southwest SU	\$67,000.36	LEA	2025	Halifax; Readsboro; Stamford; Wilmington; Whitingham

Unsuccessful Applicants

All applicants receive a direct letter of award determination from the AOE team responsible for managing these grant programs with a formal decision on their application and a summary of the comments of the reading panels. It is our intent in providing this feedback to highlight both areas of strength and any revisions that might elevate the proposal in future rounds. One-on-one meetings to review application scores and discuss reader comments are offered to all applicants.

Applicant name	Annual award request	Applicant Type	Year Requested
A.R.K. Childcare	\$15,000.00	CBO	2024
ABC and LOL Child Care Center	\$61,802.50	CBO	2024
Acorn Youth Arts, Inc	\$150,000.00	CBO	2025
Arlington Area Childcare Inc	\$50,000.00	CBO	2024
Bennington Museum	\$29,899.00	CBO	2026
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center	\$75,000.00	CBO	2026
Boys and Girls Club of Brattleboro	\$75,000.00	CBO	2026
Boys and Girls Club of Burlington	\$50,000.00	CBO	2024
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Vergennes	\$60,000.00	CBO	2025

Applicant name	Annual award request	Applicant Type	Year Requested
Burlington SD	\$51,428.57	LEA	2025
Central Vermont SU	\$64,942.86	CBO	2025
City of Essex Junction	\$40,868.96	MUN	2026
Colchester SD	\$75,000.00	LEA	2026
Creative Kid Adventures	\$47,072.00	CBO	2026
ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain	\$17,442.86	CBO	2025
Essex North SU	\$149,990.00	LEA	2024
Essex-Westford Educational Community UUSD	\$51,428.57	LEA	2025
Franklin Northeast SU	\$60,000.00	LEA	2026
Governor's Institutes of Vermont	\$37,603.00	CBO	2026
Grand Isle SU	\$181,250.00	LEA	2024, 2025
Kingdom East Unified Union School District	\$225,000.00	LEA	2025
Lamoille South SU	\$150,000.00	LEA	2025
Lincoln School District	\$82,451.43	LEA	2024, 2025
Maple Run Unified School District	\$107,214.00	LEA	2024
Middlebury Community Music Center	\$111,428.57	CBO	2025, 2026
Mill River Unified Union School District	\$60,000.00	LEA	2024

Applicant name	Annual award request	Applicant Type	Year Requested
Milton SD	\$75,000.00	LEA	2026
Mt. Abraham Unified School District	\$146,720.00	LEA	2024
Orange Southwest UUSD	\$193,000.00	LEA	2025
Orleans Southwest SU	\$150,000.00	LEA	2024
Patchwork Planet	\$44,408.00	CBO	2026
ReTribe Transformations	\$149,886.00	CBO	2025
Rivendell Interstate School District	\$31,597.00	LEA	2024
River Arts of Morrisville	\$19,000.00	CBO	2026
Rutland Makers Inc.	\$121,709.62	CBO	2024, 2025
Sage Mountain Botanical Sanctuary	\$118,000.00	CBO	2024, 2026
Schoolhouse Learning Center	\$65,369.00	LEA	2025
South Burlington SD	\$60,000.00	LEA	2024
South Hero Land Trust	\$26,376.00	CBO	2026
Springfield SD	\$133,000.00	LEA	2024
St. Johnsbury SD	\$21,666.00	LEA	2024
Strong Youth Foundation	\$27,010.00	CBO	2026
The Afterschool Collaborative	\$150,000.00	CBO	2024

Applicant name	Annual award request	Applicant Type	Year Requested
The DREAM Program	\$120,000.00	CBO	2024, 2026
The Pumpkin Patch, LLC	\$150,000.00	CBO	2024
UP For Learning	\$128,925.00	CBO	2024, 2025
Upper Valley Waldorf School	\$107,600.00	CBO	2024
Vermont Destination Imagination	\$64,685.71	CBO	2025
Vermont Historical Society	\$42,969.00	CBO	2026
Washington Central UUSD	\$150,000.00	LEA	2025
White River Valley SU	\$75,000.00	LEA	2026
Willowell Foundation	\$225,000.00	CBO	2025
Windham Central SU	\$219,441.68	LEA	2024, 2026
Youth Services, Inc.	\$150,000.00	CBO	2024