

A Year of Afterschool Advocacy 2025-2026

October

Oct 23, 2025 – Lights On Afterschool (national day of action). Use this to show impact and invite local legislators to visit your program.

- <https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/loa.cfm>
- **Actions:** host an open house, gather short parent testimonials (video/audio), post on social media with #LightsOnAfterschool, and invite local press and your state legislator(s).

Late Oct – prep for interim committee outreach. Draft outreach materials: gather 3–5 family stories, and assemble a data snapshot (enrollment/waitlist numbers).

November – December

Interim committee season (May–Nov is typical; check committees for late fall meetings). Fall interim meetings are opportunities to meet committee staff and share program priorities. (Utah posts interim calendars annually.)

- Calendar: <https://le.utah.gov/interim/2025/InterimSchedule.pdf>
- **Actions:** identify which interim committees cover education and appropriations; request a 10–15 minute briefing, submit written testimony or program one-pager.

First Thursday in December – priority bill filing window begins (priority bill dates are set around early December and early January). <https://le.utah.gov/lrgc/billtolaw.pdf>

January – March 6

Jan 20 → Mar 6, 2026 – Utah General Session (2026 General Session dates). This is the prime window for bill hearings, budget allocations, and in-person advocacy.

- <https://le.utah.gov/~2026/2026.HTM>

Actions (before session starts):

- Schedule meetings with your state rep & senator during the first two weeks after session opens.
- Deliver short packets (1-pager + 1 family story + program data) to committee members.
- Identify appropriations committee members and education committee members; plan testimony slots for bill hearings.

Actions (during session):

- Mobilize parents to send pre-written emails and make quick phone calls.
- Arrange for a legislator site visit on a caucus day.

March – April

Early March (post-session): Track the governor's sign/ veto window; analyze the budget/bills passed and what was left out.

- <https://le.utah.gov/~2026/2026.HTM>
- **Actions:** send “thank you” notes to supportive legislators; request follow-ups for bills that failed; re-energize coalition to address gaps in the next interim.

Spring – federal appropriations & Afterschool for All Challenge timing.

Afterschool for All Challenge / Congressional outreach typically happens in late spring/early summer; use this to press Congress for 21st CCLC & other OST funding.

- <https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challengeresources.cfm>
- **Actions:** plan a small delegation to meet Utah's Congressional staff (or virtual meetings); share program snapshots and federal funding needs.

May – June

May–June – interim committee meetings continue (if scheduled) and local budget planning. Good time to deliver program data to the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget (GOPB) or legislative fiscal staff.

- <https://le.utah.gov/interim/2025/InterimSchedule.pdf>
- **Actions:** submit budget requests/one-pagers to LFA or legislative fiscal analysts; invite appropriation members to visit.

Afterschool for All Challenge / Hill meetings (typically late spring/early summer). Mobilize parents/staff for phone blitzes and constituent meetings with Congress.

- <https://www.afterschoolalliance.org/challengeresources.cfm>

July – August

Summer Learning Week & other summer events. Use summer program successes to amplify the need for summer learning funding.

- <https://www.summerlearning.org/>
- **Actions:** produce 60–90 second impact videos showing summer learning outcomes; post to social media and send to legislators.

July–August – planning season for next legislative cycle. Collect data, draft policy language, and recruit local champions.

- **Actions:** finalize infographic(s), collect parent sign-ons, and identify sponsor legislators for next session.



[Utahafterschool.org/advocacy](https://utahafterschool.org/advocacy)

- Find your reps
- Join a staff or parent policy committee
- Tools, data, and research



Contact Us:

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