

Former Atlanta Falcons Quarterback Calls On Legislators to Support Afterschool and Summer Learning Programs



"Afterschool programs are a great way to coach kids, not only on an academic level, but also a life skills level." -Matt Ryan

Matt Ryan, a former quarterback for the Atlanta Falcons, is calling on legislators to help Georgia's kids by supporting afterschool and summer learning programs. In a two-minute video released by Ryan, he talks about how these programs allow parents to work and provide for their families. [Watch Matt's full video here.](#)

WHAT WE'RE ASKING OF LEGISLATORS:

1. Create and fund the BOOST 2.0 program, which will build off existing infrastructure and partnerships of BOOST. This would create a statewide framework that expands access to and assures quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities.
2. Create and fund an interagency liaison to coordinate afterschool and summer programming between the Georgia DECAL, DHS/DFCS, and GaDOE.
3. Restore \$2.66 million in funding for DFCS's Out-of-School Care Services Program. *This was eliminated in current versions of the FY25 budget.*

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Background:

In 2021, the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) partnered with the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) to develop the Building Opportunities in Out-of-School Time (BOOST) grants program, funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. BOOST was developed to distribute approximately \$85 million to Georgia's communities over three years to expand access to and bolster the quality of summer enrichment opportunities and comprehensive afterschool programming for K-12 youth statewide.

Why now?

The federal funds for the program are about to expire, but we need to keep the progress for kids going!

Afterschool and summer learning programs are crucial in helping working parents work without concerns about the safety and nurturing of their school-aged children. Plus, afterschool and summer enrichment activities improve literacy and learning, youth mental health and behaviors, and vital career-ready skills.

HOW CAN VOICES AND GSAN HELP?

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) was tapped to administer the \$85 million in grant funding. GSAN has worked closely with BOOST grantees and studied the outcomes of the program.

Overview:

- [BOOST Year 2 Evaluation Report](#)
- [BOOST Year 2 Evaluation Briefing \(video\)](#)
- [BOOST Grants Program: Year 2 Evaluation Brief](#)
- [BOOST Grants Program Year 2 Outcomes Study](#)

Local Spotlights:

- [The Study Hall, Atlanta](#)
- [Camp Twin Lakes, Atlanta](#)
- [Los Niños Primero, Atlanta](#)
- [Elachee Nature Science Center, Gainesville](#)
- [Nobis Works, Marietta](#)
- [Deep Center, Savannah](#)
- [The Vashti Center, Thomasville](#)

BOOST: YEAR 2 OUTCOMES

- Funded **93 community organizations** and **4 statewide grantees**
 - This included **1,416** academic year sites and **639** summer program sites
- Sites served **79,911 academic year youth** and **86,924 summer youth**
- Nearly all grantees met or exceeded their local outcomes, including:
 - Accelerated learning
 - Well-being and connectedness
 - Enrichment
 - Healthy eating and physical activity

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About Voices for Georgia's Children:

Voices for Georgia's Children believes every child can thrive when given the opportunity. Through research and analysis, public education, and convening and engaging with decision makers, we advance laws, policies, and actions that improve the lives of children. Our work is framed in a holistic "whole child" perspective that allows us to identify how different policies impact children and propose solutions that benefit children on multiple levels.

About Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network

The Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) is a public-private collaborative that envisions a day when all communities in Georgia have the resources to provide exceptional afterschool programming. Our mission is to advance, connect, and support quality afterschool programs to promote the success of children and youth throughout Georgia.