Colorado Nonprofits Out-of-School Time (OST) Grant Program

Legislative Intent and Goals

The Colorado Nonprofits Out-of-School Time (OST) grant program (NPOST) funds eligible entities that provide affordable and comprehensive OST programs to students enrolled in public schools.

OST programs are available to kindergarten through twelfth grade students. These programs provide affordable, comprehensive, academic enrichment and related services outside of the regular school day. OST programs can take place before and after school, during seasonal breaks, on staff in-service and conference days and/or on the fifth day of the week for schools that operate on a four-day school week. NPOST funded programs must be evidence-informed, high-quality and provide:

- academic enrichment
- opportunities for development in literacy, science, technology, engineering, mathematics and other subject matters for students and families
- a safe learning environment
- resources to increase student engagement and reduce chronic absenteeism
- programs and services that provide a well-rounded education and are designed to reinforce and complement school-based academic programs, including youth development activities, art, music, outdoor programs, recreational programs, technology education programs, physical health activities and social and emotional wellness services
- opportunities to develop meaningful workforce readiness and life skills

Grantees and Funding

A competitive grant process was launched in October 2024, with applications accepted until December 5, 2024. To support applicants, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) held webinars, hosted weekly office hours, and provided additional resources through the NPOST webpage. A total of 32 eligible entities applied for the grant. Given the statutory requirements of the program, applicants were nonprofit organizations. All grant applications included multiple sites with the average funding request of $560,910.40.

Grants were scored on narrative content and alignment with state priorities by trained external and CDE reviewers. Up to 25 priority points were applied to applications with the ability to serve, or currently serve, students who need academic enrichment, students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals, students who are English learners and applicants who could offer their program to families at no-cost. A total score of 120 out of 145 was required for applicants to receive funding.

Of note, the scoring of applications and the final approval process were originally scheduled for January 2025, with funded programs set to begin in April 2025. However, per the Joint Budget Committee of the Colorado General Assembly, the application scoring and approval process was paused until April 2025. Once approval was granted to move forward, the process was completed in April and programs officially launched on May 1, 2025. At that time, CDE awarded a total of $9,929,541.91 across the three-year grant period to 11 grantees. Details on funded programs and three-year grant amounts can be found in the Appendix. In the program's first grant year, $3,500,000 was appropriated, of which $3,333,981 was awarded as grants and

$166,019 was allocated for administration. On average, funded grantees requested $714,506 and proposed establishing a total of 40 community learning centers, with individual grantees proposing between one and six sites.

Reporting Metrics

Most grantees immediately began implementing programming for the summer of 2025. The remainder of grantees began programming in September of 2025. Due to the program's delayed launch, grantees have reported only participation data to date. As of January 1, 2026, a total of 1,887 students across the state have actively participated in programming funded by this grant. This number is expected to rise significantly through 2026 due to the full implementation of spring and summer programming. In the initial applications, grantees submitted performance measures related to student academic achievement, student grade level promotion, student attendance, student engagement, family engagement, and social and emotional needs. Performance measures are tracked using a combination of student level data collected by CDE in annual collections and grantee provided data.

Implementation and outcome data collection will begin in spring of 2026 and be included in the 2025-26 legislative report. Legislatively, CDE is required to report:

- student level academic outcomes using such indicators as state assessment performance scores
- student level attendance outcomes
- a summary of grantee provided information, including the total number of hours attended by students at each program when grant funds were used, progress on performance measures and evidence of student academic achievement in reading, language arts, mathematics and science

CDE has developed an annual end-of-year report that will be completed by grantees each spring during the grant period. Additional information will be collected through annual state-level data collections.

Resources

- NPOST Grant Webpage
- HB24-1331 Legislation

Contact Information

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Appendix: Grantees Funded by HB 24-1331

Colorado Nonprofits Out-of-School Time Grant Program (NPOST)

Fiscal Agent/Organization	Rural or Non-Rural	Proposing to Serve Charter Schools	Congressional District(s)	Total Allocation Across 3 Year Grant Term
Boys and Girls Club Denver Metro (including Larimer and Pueblo Clubs)	Non-Rural	No	1,3,4,7	$1,342,136.25
Boys and Girls Clubs in Colorado	Rural	Yes	2,3,4,7	$1,360,031.40
Center Viking Youth Club	Rural	No	3	$299,612.79
Children's Literacy Center	Non-Rural	No	5	$568,575.00
Colorado AeroLab	Rural	No	2,3,4,7	$1,194,965.10
Riverside Educational Centers	Non-Rural	No	3	$1,431,991.05
Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership Inc.	Non-Rural	Yes	6	$150,000.00
Scholars Unlimited	Non-Rural	No	1,2,7,8	$1,496,250.00
The Pinhead Institute Inc.	Rural	No	3	$150,000.00
YMCA of Metropolitan Denver	Non-Rural	Yes	1	$799,065.33
YouthPower365	Rural	No	2	$1,136,914.99
Total Funding				**$9,929,541.91**