



April 2015

Many Challenges, Take ONE Action

On Friday, April 3, Governor Bruce Rauner suspended \$26 million in social services and public health grants as part of his push to tackle a \$1.6 billion shortfall in the current FY15 state budget. Effective immediately, these programs and services that benefit thousands of children and families across Illinois must cease operations and close their doors; leaving an already vulnerable population at risk.

The programs directly affected by these cuts include services for persons with autism and those with epilepsy, the developmentally disabled, the mentally ill and homelessness, addiction prevention services for immigrants seeking to become U.S. citizens, and ***afterschool services for children and youth.***

Take Action Now!

Over the next few weeks we will roll out additional tools to help you take a variety of actions, from collecting signatures from parents, to hosting a site visit and writing an Op-Ed to your local paper. Our collective actions will culminate with our [Advocacy Day in Springfield on April 29th!](#)

We encourage you to **take ONE action** and help make a powerful, collective stand against these unconscionable cuts.



[Tweet about it](#)



[Sign-on letter](#)



[Host a site-visit](#)



Write an Op-Ed

Tweet about it

Download this [social media toolkit](#) that includes sample Facebook posts and [tweets](#) as well as the contact information for the Senate and House Leadership.

Here are some sample tweets that you can copy, paste, and make your own. Be sure to [insert your Representative's handle](#) into your message before tweeting. [Not sure who your Representative is?](#)

[Sample Tweet 1](#)

@InsertRepHandle, keep kids safe and engaged in #afterschool programs.
#Communityschools can't afford cuts. #twill #saveafterschool

[Sample Tweet 2](#)

I condemn @GovRauner's reckless grant terminations that close doors to thousands of children & families. **@InsertRepHandle**, #saveafterschool

[Sample Tweet 3](#)

In #IL, 65,000 students & 11,000 adults count on #afterschool programs each day. **@InsertRepHandle**, #SaveAfterschool #twill

[Sample Tweet 4](#)

@GovRauner's \$26 million cut will save #IL millions. But constituents are paying the price. **@InsertRepHandle**, #SaveAfterschool #twill

[Sample Tweet 5](#)

Nonessential? #TeenREACH keeps kids safe & supports working parents.
@InsertRepHandle, #saveafterschool #twill

[Sample Tweet 6](#)

Law enforcement says #afterschool keeps kids safe; @GovRauner still springs cuts on families. **@InsertRepHandle** #twill

[Sample Tweet 7](#)

Cuts to #afterschool increase delinquency & make kids less safe. **@InsertRepHandle**, #saveafterschool #twill

Sign-on Letter

Use this sample [sign-on letter to collect signatures from parents](#) of students in your Teen REACH programs who are negatively impacted by Governor Rauner's cuts. It's important that Governor Rauner and our state legislators know how these cuts impact families -- and especially important that they hear from voters in their districts. Please email copies of your completed sign-on letters to [Melissa Mitchell](#), and we will send them to our elected officials.

Be sure to modify the header (by double clicking on it) and insert your school / program name and address.

Host a Site Visit

Inviting policy makers to visit your community school is a powerful way to help them understand the value your program brings to the community. The future of community schools lies in the level of commitment that public officials make to fund programs. By [hosting a site visit](#), advocates can help raise awareness of the importance of community schools in your community and the need to keep this work strong in Illinois.

Elected officials spend time in their districts frequently, including when Congress or the General Assembly is in session. In Illinois, for example, General Assembly members are often in their districts on Mondays and Fridays, and on breaks in the session. Times when elected officials are in-district provide great opportunities to organize a site visit.

Our [Advocacy Toolkit](#) has resources and a guide to help you plan an effective legislative site visit.



**33 West Grand Avenue, Suite 300
Chicago, Illinois 60654
(312) 836-0854
www.ilcommunityschools.org**