

# SB4173



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB4173

Introduced 3/10/2026, by Sen. Celina Villanueva

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

Sets forth findings and certain requirements. Appropriates \$50,000,000 to the State Board of Education for the purpose of providing grants for community learning centers to support afterschool programs and community schools. Effective July 1, 2026.

LRB104 21110 LNS 35297 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning appropriations.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. Findings; grants.

5 (a) The General Assembly finds all the following:

6 (1) A strong research base supports the fact that  
7 afterschool programs and community schools improve academic  
8 achievement, support social and emotional growth, help keep  
9 communities safe, and support the needs of working families.

10 (2) Data supports the fact that there is always a greater  
11 need for these programs than there is funding for programming.

12 (3) Students and families in all communities should have  
13 access to these services regardless of income status.

14 (4) Illinois as a nationwide leader in child development  
15 recognizes that we must move toward an education system that  
16 provides afterschool for all.

17 (b) The State Board of Education shall make grants  
18 available for community learning centers separate and apart  
19 from any federal appropriations.

20 (1) The purpose of community learning center programs is  
21 to provide opportunities to establish or expand activities  
22 that:

23 (A) provide opportunities for academic enrichment,  
24 including providing tutorial services to help students

1 (particularly students who attend low-performing schools), to  
2 meet the challenging State academic standards;

3 (B) offer students a broad array of additional services,  
4 programs, and activities, such as youth development  
5 activities, service learning, nutrition and health education,  
6 drug and violence prevention programs, counseling programs,  
7 art, music, physical fitness, and wellness programs,  
8 technology education programs, financial literacy programs,  
9 environmental literacy programs, mathematics, science, and  
10 career and technical education programs, internship or  
11 apprenticeship programs, and other ties to an in-demand  
12 industry sector or occupation for high school students that  
13 are designed to reinforce and complement the regular academic  
14 program of participating students;

15 (C) offer families of students served by community  
16 learning centers opportunities for active and meaningful  
17 engagement in their children's education, including  
18 opportunities for literacy and related educational  
19 development; and

20 (D) support the whole needs of students, including  
21 providing extended learning time, integrated student support,  
22 family engagement, and collaborative leadership structures in  
23 schools as part of the community schools model, as a  
24 research-validated strategy to promote equity in education.

25 (2) Public and private entities, including local education  
26 agencies, such as public school districts, public university

1 laboratory schools approved by the State Board of Education,  
2 State-authorized charter schools, area vocational centers,  
3 regional offices of education, intermediate service centers,  
4 community-based organizations, including faith-based  
5 organizations, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, as  
6 defined in the federal Indian Self-Determination and Education  
7 Assistance Act, and other public and private entities or a  
8 consortium of 2 or more such agencies, organizations, or  
9 entities are eligible to apply.

10 (3) Each grantee must propose to serve high-poverty  
11 schools or schools eligible for schoolwide programs under  
12 Section 1114 of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education  
13 Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, such as  
14 schools in which not less than 40% of the children are from  
15 low-income families.

16 (4) Individual awards should not exceed \$225,000 per site,  
17 such as the physical location where grant-funded services and  
18 activities are provided to participating students and adults.

19 (5) Successful applicants may reapply via continuing  
20 application for up to 4 additional years. Funding in  
21 subsequent years is contingent upon compliance with federal  
22 and State law, State grant-making rules, passage of sufficient  
23 appropriations for the program, and satisfactory performance  
24 in the preceding grant period.

25 (6) The State Board of Education shall issue a grant  
26 application to select a technical assistance provider to

1 support grantees. Grantees must participate in compliance and  
2 technical assistance activities. This technical assistance  
3 provider must also develop an advisory board of grantees to  
4 provide feedback to the State Board of Education on the  
5 feasibility of grant management practices and the needs of  
6 students.

7 (7) The program objectives of this grant are as follows:

8 (A) Schools will improve student achievement in core  
9 academic areas.

10 (B) Schools will show an increase in student attendance  
11 and graduation from high school.

12 (C) Schools will see an increase in the social-emotional  
13 skills of their students.

14 (D) Programs will collaborate with the community.

15 (E) Programs will coordinate with schools to determine  
16 the students and families with the greatest need.

17 (F) Programs will provide ongoing professional  
18 development to program personnel.

19 (G) Programs will collaborate with schools and  
20 community-based organizations to provide sustainable programs.

21 Elements of the community school's model can be offered by  
22 community learning centers.

23 The State Board of Education must provide public reports  
24 annually on the spending of this programming and plans for  
25 future competitions.

26 The State Board of Education must issue continuing

1 application materials annually within 30 days of the start of  
2 the fiscal year.

3 The State Board of Education must name a technical  
4 assistance provider to support these grantees.

5 Section 10. The amount of \$50,000,000, or so much of that  
6 amount as may be necessary, is appropriated from the General  
7 Revenue Fund to the State Board of Education for the purpose of  
8 providing grants for community learning centers to support  
9 afterschool programs and community schools.

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
11 2026.