

A Unified Approach: OST and School Day in Sync

Advocacy Statements for OST-School Partnerships

Formula for Writing Advocacy Statements:

[Affirm Shared Goal] + [Show Alignment] + [Offer Partnership Action]

Use this formula to craft clear, compelling messages that strengthen collaboration between OST programs and schools.

Sample Advocacy Statements:

1) OST programs are just babysitting.

We know families and schools want safe, enriching spaces for students after school. Our OST program provides structured academic support and SEL activities—not just supervision. Let's schedule a time for you to visit a session and see the learning in action.

2) OST programs don't align with school goals.

Your focus on improving attendance and SEL aligns perfectly with our program. We reinforce school-day strategies through leadership clubs and homework help. Could we co-create a shared calendar to strengthen these efforts together?

3) Only struggling students benefit from OST.

We know every student deserves opportunities to thrive. Our OST program serves all learners—offering enrichment, STEM, and leadership activities for diverse interests. Let's explore ways to highlight these opportunities in your family newsletter.

4) OST staff are not qualified educators.

Your commitment to quality instruction matches ours. Our staff are trained in youth development, SEL, and often collaborate with certified teachers. Could we partner on a joint PD session to share strategies for supporting students beyond the school day?

5) Families don't care about OST programs.

We know family engagement is a priority for your school. Our OST program hosts monthly family nights and connects families to resources. Let's co-brand the next event to strengthen school-family-community ties.

6) OST programs are not evidence-based.

Your focus on data-driven practices aligns with our approach. OST programs are backed by research showing improved attendance, academic outcomes, and SEL growth. Could we share impact data at your next leadership meeting?

