MISSION
Since 1993, PENN SACCA has provided Out-of-School-Time (OST) professionals with information, training, and resources to assist in the delivery of quality programming. Our mission is to guide, champion, and represent out-of-school-time professionals, as we envision a state where all Pennsylvania’s school-age professionals are recognized, valued, respected, and appreciated for their work.

PROJECT SUMMARY
Beginning in January of 2022, PENN SACCA led a reorganization process to clarify its vision and strategy as a statewide intermediary and identify the preferred structure to realize that vision. As part of this project, through a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process, a remarkably cohesive narrative emerged that highlighted three core issues facing the OST field today: staffing, funding, and advocacy.

STAFFING
The most significant issues for OST providers relate directly to staffing. Ranked in order by priority, this list shares what stakeholders identify to be particular challenges as they relate to staffing: low wages, training and professional development, staff shortages, staff burnout, and lack of opportunities for career growth.

FUNDING
Feedback from stakeholders specific to funding can be summarized by saying that there is not enough consistent funding, access to funding is regionally specific, and the requirements to access and report on funding often prove a barrier in their own right. Funding applications and reporting also require many hours of staff time that could be spent developing and implementing meaningful youth-centered programming.

ADVOCACY
Stakeholders consistently spoke to a need for stronger and unified advocacy and lobbying efforts at the local and state level as a key step towards addressing the aforementioned issues facing the OST field.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
Over the next 12 months, PENN SACCA will transform from a volunteer-run member benefit organization to a staff-supported convening agency, laser focused on addressing advocacy in the field with an emphasis on government relations. The implementation plan is guided by four objectives:

1 CLARIFY and articulate focused mission and strategy for the organization moving forward.
2 CONVENE key stakeholders to build consensus and momentum around shared goals.
3 SOLIDIFY staffing and governance structure.
4 EXPAND resources to advance operational and mission oriented goals.

PENN SACCA’s board of directors has already launched the project and anticipates its completion by June 30, 2023.