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Improving Afterschool Teaching and Learning

New Expectations

With the implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act, federally supported 21st Century Community Learning Centers are accountable for supporting student achievement. This raises the bar for programs around the country, calling for high-quality, **balanced programming** that includes academic enrichment as well as traditional youth development activities and a safe place to spend the afterschool hours.

What the National Partnership Is Doing

The National Partnership is engaged in a 5-year study to better define high-quality afterschool teaching and learning. Analyzing available data, staff identify afterschool sites demonstrating a positive effect on student achievement. We then rigorously document program characteristics and practices, looking specifically at six content areas: **literacy, mathematics, science, the arts, technology, and homework help**. When the study is complete, the staff will have visited 57 afterschool sites nationwide. Findings from this study are used to develop products and services to help afterschool practitioners improve their academic programs.



The National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning is supported by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Partners

Under the leadership of the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL), the following organizations work to promote high-quality academic enrichment in afterschool programs:

- Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL)
- National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST)
- Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL)
- Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL)
- SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (SERVE)
- WGBH Educational Foundation (WGBH)
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE)

Steering Committee

The following 13 national content and afterschool experts help guide the National Partnership's work by reviewing major planning and development activities:

- Marilyn Jager Adams, Soliloquy Learning
- Grace Davila Coates, EQUALS and FAMILY MATH, University of California, Berkeley
- An-Me Chung (Ex-Officio), Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Harris M. Cooper, Duke University
- Pat Edwards, Retired Community Educator
- Stephanie Hirsh, National Staff Development Council
- Rhonda Lauer, Foundations, Inc.
- Priscilla Little, Harvard Family Research Project
- Carol K. McElvain, Learning Point Associates
- Claudette Morton, Montana Small Schools Alliance
- Elizabeth R. Reisner, Policy Studies Associates, Inc.
- Carla Sanger, LA's BEST
- Heather Weiss, Harvard Family Research Project

National Partnership for Quality Afterschool Learning

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory
211 E. 7th St., Suite 200 • Austin, TX 78701-3253
800-476-6861
www.sedl.org/afterschool/

In high-quality schools, students learn something new every day.

Should afterschool learning be any different?



**NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL LEARNING**

at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory



What We Know About High-Quality Programs



Common Characteristics

- Clear goals, with program structure and content aligned to meet them
- An established relationship with school-day programming
- Standards-linked activities and research-based strategies
- Well-maintained evaluation structure
- Staff who relate well to students

Promising Academic Practices

Literacy

- Book Discussion Groups and Literacy Circles
- Read Alouds
- Story and Literature Dramatizations
- Writing
- Family Literacy Events
- One-on-One and Small Group Tutoring

Mathematics

- Finding Math
- Math Centers
- Math Games
- Math Tools
- Math Tutoring
- Family Connections

Science

- Investigating Science Through Inquiry
- Exploring Science Through Projects and Problems
- Integrating Science Across the Curriculum
- Engaging Families and Communities
- Tutoring to Enhance Science Skills

The Arts

- Building Skills in the Arts
- Expressing Yourself Through the Arts
- Making Connections to History and Culture
- Thinking and Talking About Works of Art
- Integrating the Arts With Other Subjects
- Involving Families and Communities

Technology

- Developing Self-Expression and Creativity
- Gathering and Sharing Information
- Finding and Solving Problems
- Living and Working With Technology
- Learning in Virtual Spaces
- Building Skills and Understanding

Coming Soon

Homework Help

How Can the National Partnership Help You?

Afterschool Training Toolkit

This free online staff development resource is built around promising afterschool practices in literacy, mathematics, science, the arts, technology, and homework help. It includes content goals, sample lesson plans, research links, and video segments that show how successful afterschool programs use innovative activities to engage student learning. The toolkit can be accessed at www.sedl.org/afterschool/toolkits/.

Curriculum Resource Databases

The National Partnership has contracted with expert afterschool reviewers to identify and describe high-quality afterschool curriculum resources in the areas of literacy, mathematics, and science. These reviews are available in the form of a searchable database at www.sedl.org/afterschool/resources/curriculum.html.

Regional Conferences

National Partnership members coordinate eight regional conferences annually across the United States. Afterschool practitioners from neighboring states are encouraged to come together, network, and learn more about building their programs' capacity to support student achievement.



Visit our Web site at www.sedl.org/afterschool/

National Summer Institute

The annual 21st Century Community Learning Centers Summer Institute, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, gives practitioners from around the country an opportunity to hear national afterschool leaders present on high-quality programming and promising academic practices.

Assistance to State Education Agencies

National Partnership staff are available to assist state education agencies in planning, developing, implementing, and evaluating high-quality programs. We also have an extensive catalog of professional development options that can be tailored to your state's needs.

Staff Development Workshops

Our fee-for-service workshops are designed for local and community-based project directors, site coordinators, and instructors. Choose from a variety of 90-minute to 3-hour sessions, or let us customize an event to suit your individual program.

Sign Up for E-mail Bulletin

The National Partnership continues to develop the Afterschool Training Toolkit as well as other products and services. To be notified of updates and afterschool news of interest, send in this postage-paid card or sign up at www.sedl.org/afterschool/news/signup.html.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

City: _____ State: _____

E-mail: _____

- I would like for someone to contact me about training events or other services.

Please indicate your role related to afterschool programming.

- Afterschool Program Director
- Afterschool Site Coordinator
- Afterschool Instructor
- Campus Principal
- Parent or Student Family Member
- Other: _____

Please tear along the perforation and drop in the mail.



THE ARTS LITERACY HOMEWORK HELP
TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE MATHEMATICS