Quality Afterschool Standards & Best Practices

AASC – 2017 Conference
September 24-27, 2017

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Florida Afterschool Alliance

FASAs mission is to provide leadership to support professionals and to promote quality programs for children and youth during out-of-school hours.

FASA Provides training, advocacy, and networking opportunities for afterschool professionals thought out Florida.

High quality afterschool programs accelerate student achievement and better prepare students for college and career success.
Expand learning through community partnerships, afterschool, and summers

- Address factors for better student success.
- Bring in new allies to reduce costs and increase community and family engagement.
- Provide leading edge opportunities for today’s jobs and college access.
- Provide safety & supervision from 3-5:30 PM and during summers while learning new skills.

High-quality afterschool programs are proven to accelerate student achievement and development.

Durlak & Weissberg, Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning; Expanding Minds, p.196

Expanding Minds and Opportunities:
Leveraging the Power of Afterschool and Summer Learning for Student Success

- Contributions from almost 100 authors, researchers and practitioners about what works, including in 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Articles available for free download: www.expandinglearning.org

Purchase a copy from Amazon.com and visibly use its 3 pounds of evidence to expand programming, improve results and build better school-family-community partnerships.
Florida Quality Standards

• Published the Florida Standards for Quality Afterschool Programs in 2008
• The original Quality Standards identify the essential and required elements for ANY successful afterschool program.

Overview of the Gold Standards

The Gold Standard Practices represent the state’s best practices in academic and enrichment activities in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs.

Purpose of the Gold Standards

• To capture an array of promising practices that expand minds and make the best possible use of time spent in afterschool programs.
• To provide a framework for program staff to develop afterschool activities and curricula, as well as new strategies to further enhance programmatic practices.
• To raise the bar for quality programming offered within 21st CCLC programs to improve student outcomes.
Developing the Gold Standards

- Statewide exemplary program input
- Drafts revised through collaboration with program coordinators
- Standards align with goals of the 21st CCLC programs
  - Academic Enrichment
  - Personal Enrichment
  - Family Involvement

Content of the Gold Standards

- Strong enrichment in core academic areas, such as STEM disciplines, reading and literacy, the arts and humanities
- Physical activity and nutrition
- Emphasis on college and career readiness with hands-on, engaging activities

Content of the Gold Standards

- Designed with real world skills in mind:
  - Leadership
  - Teamwork
  - Sportsmanship
  - Communication
  - Critical Thinking
  - Creativity
  - Adaptability
Content of the Gold Standards

Academic Enrichment
Overarching strategies and goals for the program:
• Ongoing collaboration with school day teachers
• Facilitated homework assistance with local content experts and volunteer organizations
• Use of problem- and project-based learning techniques
• Recognition of student accomplishments
• Employee ESL endorsements and certification, when possible
• Teaching of higher education and career preparation
• Incorporation of state and national learning standards

Content of the Gold Standards

Academic Enrichment: Content Strategies
Strategies to improve learning in:
• Engineering
• English-Language Arts and Reading
• Mathematics
• Science
• Social Studies and Civics
• Technology

Content of the Gold Standards

Personal Enrichment
Strategies to improve the quality of life through:
• College and Career Preparation
• Arts and Humanities
• Physical Activity and Nutrition
Content of the Gold Standards

**Family Involvement**

Different strategies to engage families in student learning:

- Program staff—students’ families relationships
- Incorporate family input to design student activities
- Family education and advocacy for afterschool opportunities within the community and state

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**The Potential Power of Afterschool Programming**

6,000 hours of awake time we all have annually, including children

1,000 hours the average US student attends school annually (with 100% attendance)

5,000 available hours to impact, educate and enhance the learning of American children beyond status quo

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**Florida Afterschool Alliance**

Florida’s Membership Organization for After School Professionals

Mission: Provide leadership, support professionals and promote quality programs for child and youth during out of school hours.

About Us:

Founded in 1988 to support professional in creating quality out-of-school experiences for children and youth.

Volunteer Board of Directors representing the State – divided into 5 regions

Provide Professional Development –
- Host Annual State Conference
- Provide Regional Training
- Provide Networking Opportunities
- Provide training for professionals who serve school setting including: Academic programs, Child Care Centers, Enrichment Programs, Faith Based, Recreation Centers, School Based Programs, Summer Camps, Tutoring Programs and 21st CCLC.
FASA Learning Academy

Goals:

- Provide high-quality affordable professional development and certification options for the OST field in Florida
- Tie to nationally recognized core competencies
- Ultimately establish a FASA credential in Florida
- Build a collaborative network of learners to continue to expand professional development and improve quality

Why Do We Need FASA Academy?

Did You Know:
The top 5 reasons employees stay with an organization…

1. Achievement
2. Learning - Access to training
3. Inspiration (the chance to inspire others)
4. Creativity
5. Fun and enjoyment

Link: https://collaboration.net/login

Questions?

Thank you for allowing me to share with you the state of Afterschool in Florida. Please feel free to reach out to me.

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