

**21st Century Community Learning Centers
2014 Spring Conference**
May 1, 2014

Call for Presentations

The Illinois State Board of Education's Division of College and Career Readiness is calling for presentations for its 21st Century Community Learning Centers 2014 Spring Conference. The conference will be held at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois on May 1, 2014.

Conference Goal

The primary goal of the spring conference is to provide a forum for Illinois 21st CCLC grantees and their partners to learn about using high-quality practices in support of student learning and achieving other program goals.

Conference Objectives

- To draw on the knowledge and experience of Illinois 21st CCLCs
- To share evidence-based and emerging promising practices that support 21st CCLCs in achieving their program goals and meeting state program requirements
- To create opportunities for networking and to increase communication across 21st CCLC programs

Audience

- 21st CCLC project directors and program staff
- Principals and school day staff connected with the 21st CCLC program
- Afterschool program partners

General Information

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking presentations that are grounded in evidence-based practices and emerging promising practices, that demonstrate good results, and that are applicable across programs.

The conference will focus on three strands that align to the State's 21st CCLC priorities:

1. Academics Afterschool
2. Continuous Program Improvement
3. Afterschool Enrichment

Some sessions will be presented by 21st CCLCs and others by external presenters; this call for proposals is for 21st CCLC-led sessions. SEDL's Illinois Quality Afterschool team and the Illinois State Board of Education will review all proposals received by the submission deadline, and the Illinois State Board of Education will make the final determination on proposals selected.

To assist you in generating topic ideas for presentation proposals we have listed the conference strands with some examples of suggested session topics.

Academics Afterschool

In the hours after school, 21st CCLCs provide opportunities for students to improve skills in core academic areas. Academic activities, including tutoring and homework help, assist students in meeting local and state academic standards. The implementation of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) will require that new strategies be added to the variety of instructional approaches currently used to encourage and facilitate student learning in the afterschool program. Presentations for this topic will share examples of successful afterschool practices that focus on expanding learning to support student achievement.

Examples of suggested session topics include:

- Aligning the Academic Goals of the District, School, and Afterschool Program
- Aligning Afterschool Activities to Common Core State Standards
- Linking School Day and Afterschool Learning
- Embedding Academics in Afterschool Activities
- Incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) in Afterschool
- Helping with Homework
- Building Literacy and Math Skills
- Tutoring

Continuous Program Improvement

High-quality afterschool programs are goal-oriented programs that routinely assess their progress toward program goals and make adjustments, as necessary, to remain on track for reaching those goals. These 21st CCLCs adopt a philosophy of continuous improvement that incorporates program sustainability as its undercurrent theme. These programs recognize that afterschool can serve as a bridge that connects parents, schools, and communities in support of student achievement. Presentations for this topic will focus on sharing strategies, resources, and tools used in achieving program goals, building staff capacity, gauging program effectiveness, fostering effective communication, maintaining compliance with Illinois State Board of Education and 21st CCLC program requirements, collaborating with program partners, and building strong relationships with students and their families.

Examples of suggested session topics include:

- Providing Staff Development
- Managing Student Behavior
- Working with High Need, High Poverty Populations
- Evaluating Program Effectiveness
- Assessing Program Needs and Using Data to Drive Decision Making
- Marketing the Afterschool Program and Building Program Advocacy
- Planning for Sustainability and Managing for Program Success
- Communicating with School Day Staff, Parents, and Other Key Stakeholders
- Partnering with Outside Organizations to Leverage Resources
- Understanding Illinois Learning Standards and Common Core State Standards

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- Maintaining Compliance with State and Program Requirements
- Building Strong Relationships with Parents and Families
- Developing Programs for Parents and Families
- Working with Extended and Non-traditional Families
- Developing Culturally Relevant Programs for Diverse Families
- Developing Programs for Limited English Proficient Families

Afterschool Enrichment

Afterschool enrichment focuses on extending students' knowledge in new ways. Enrichment activities often incorporate technology and the arts as a way to engage students. Many 21st CCLCs also offer youth development activities that promote social and emotional development. Presentations for this topic will focus on sharing successful program strategies and activities that engage students, motivate them to regularly attend the afterschool program, fully participate in program activities, and exhibit positive behavioral changes.

Examples of suggested session topics include:

- Integrating Technology in Afterschool Programming
- Programming for High School Youth
- Incorporating the Arts in Afterschool Programming
- Programming for Diverse Populations
- Programming for Middle School Youth
- Addressing Social and Emotional Needs
- Programming for Students with Special Needs
- Supporting College and Career Readiness
- Programming to Prevent Bullying
- Planning and Implementing Successful Summer Programs

Proposal Information

Presentation formats may include the following types:

- Interactive or hands-on activities
- Demonstrations
- Panels
- Roundtable discussions
- Structured networking sessions

Sessions should focus on

- Practices, strategies, and activities that have been successful for your program
- Evidence-based and/or emerging promising practices for afterschool programs
- Networking and collaborations

Presentation length

- 75-minute sessions

Presenters are

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- Asked to ensure participants have opportunities to interact
- Encouraged to utilize interactive and hands-on applications
- Responsible for providing all presentation materials and handouts
- Asked to submit their presentation materials after the conference for Web-based dissemination

Selection Criteria

Priority will be given to proposals that reflect these criteria:

- Relevance to conference goal, objectives, and strands
- Relevance to all participants attending the conference (program staff and partners)
- Innovation and creativity in presentation content, including activities for skill building and interactivity
- Clarity of intent, description, and design of the session
- Support for the topic with evidence-based practices or emerging promising practices

Logistics

Conference organizers will provide flip charts (one per session), markers, LCD projectors and screens as needed. ***Presenters will need to provide their own laptop if using an LCD projector.***

All proposals must be submitted online at the URL below and must be received by SEDL by February 28, 2014.

Submission form: <<http://www.sedl.org/iqa/presentations.cgi>>

To complete the online form you will need

- Full contact information for each person listed as a presenter
- Presentation title (12 words or less)
- Presentation abstract for the conference program (75 words or less)
- Presentation description (Please provide a detailed description of the presentation, including the types of activities participants will experience)
- Session outcomes (As a result of attending your session, what do you expect participants to know or be able to do?)