HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL WEBINAR

AUGUST 20, 2014

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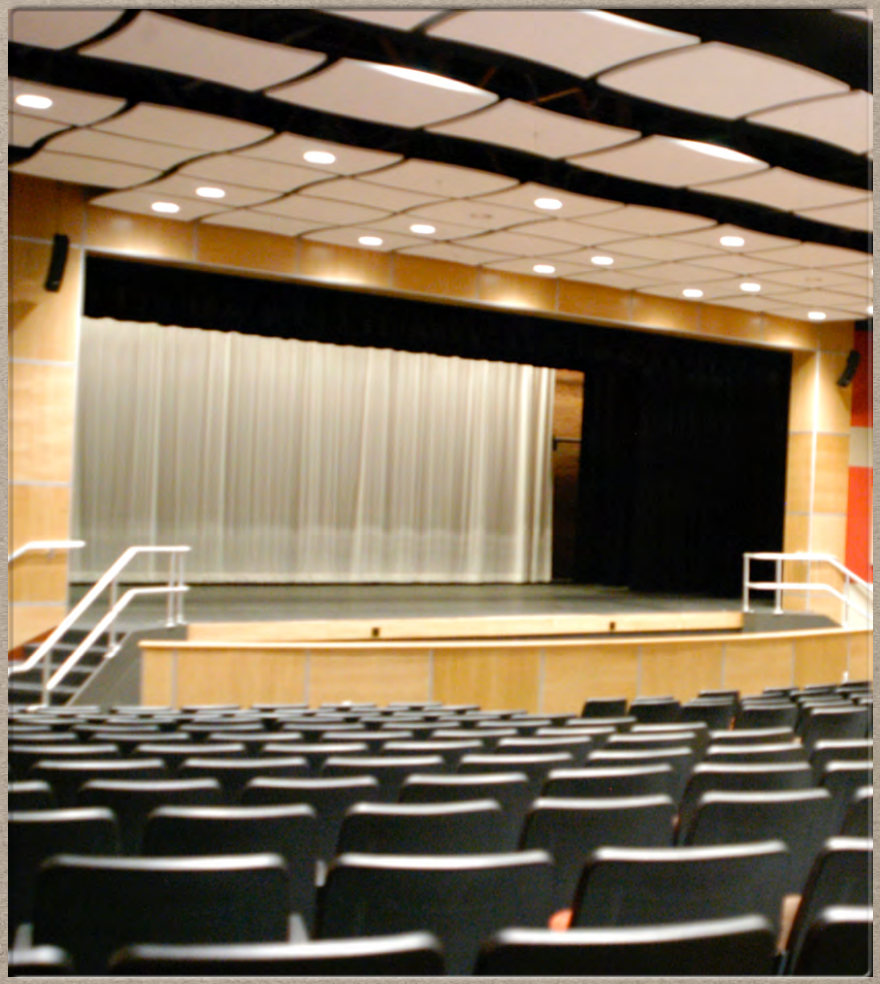
WHAT MAKES HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL DIFFERENT?

PRIMARY DIFFERENCE WITH HIGH SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

- Student Autonomy

ANOTHER MAJOR DIFFERENCE

- Student's expectation of the program



IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAM SCHEDULE

IMPLICATIONS FOR PROGRAM OFFERINGS

IMPLICATIONS FOR STAFFING

IN 1950, 80% OF THE JOBS WERE CLASSIFIED AS UNSKILLED.

TODAY THE REVERSE IS TRUE.

"High school is the last opportunity to engage students in their own education and get them on a pathway to productive adulthood and lifelong learning."

-Afterschool Alliance Issue Brief #23

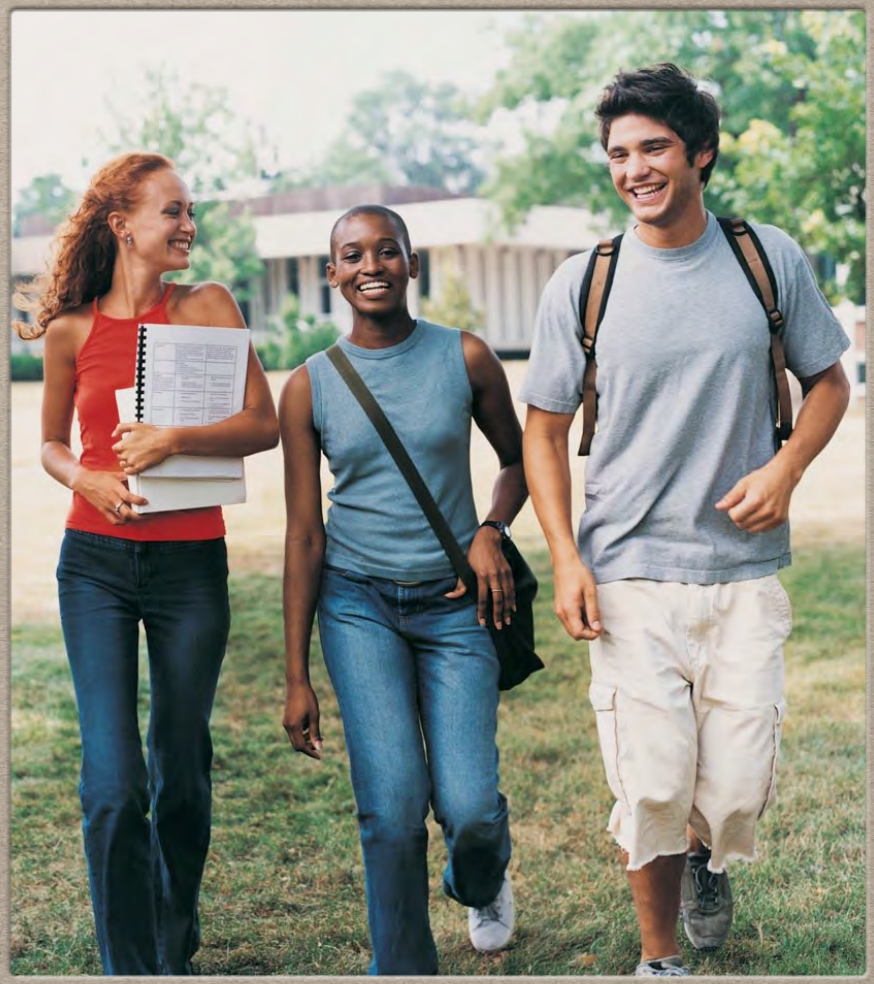
November 2005

Retrieved from: http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_23_high_school.cfm

CHALLENGE: DESIGNING PROGRAMS THAT MEET THE VARIED NEEDS OF STUDENTS

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS CAN SUPPORT STUDENTS' COLLEGE AND CAREER GOALS

- Intentional focus on exploring, setting goals, and preparing for postsecondary learning



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS CAN PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO BUILD 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- Imagination

REQUIRED 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

- Collaboration
- Adaptability
- Communication
- Digital Literacy

REQUIRED 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

- Leadership
- Civic Participation
- Entrepreneurship

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

- College visits
- Working with students and their families to identify prospective colleges
- Assistance with college and financial aid applications

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

- Partnerships resulting in work-based learning
- Community service projects
- Work experiences
- Internships

CHALLENGE:
KEEPING YOUTH ENGAGED

"Forming healthy relationships with program staff can lead to a positive emotional climate for students, allowing them to feel comfortable learning and exploring."

-Afterschool Alliance Issue Brief #47

March 2011

Retrieved from: http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_47_quality.cfm

IN ORDER TO ENGAGE STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS MUST

- Employ staff who understand youth culture and are trained to work with teens

IN ORDER TO ENGAGE STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS MUST

- Offer activities relevant to the wants and needs of the students being recruited
- Offer a blend of structured activities and unstructured time for socializing

IN ORDER TO ENGAGE STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS MUST

- Incorporate youth voice in program planning and activity selection
- Give youth a role in making decisions about the program
- Provide leadership opportunities for youth

IN ORDER TO ENGAGE STUDENTS, HIGH SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS MUST

- Offer real-world learning opportunities

"High school students cannot or will not attend an after-school program everyday. The most effective programs require sustained but not daily attendance."

-The After-School Corporation

July 2007

Retrieved from: http://www.expandedschools.org/sites/default/files/meeting_high_school_challenge_making_afterschool_work_for_older_students.pdf

CHALLENGE: MAINTAINING QUALITY STAFF

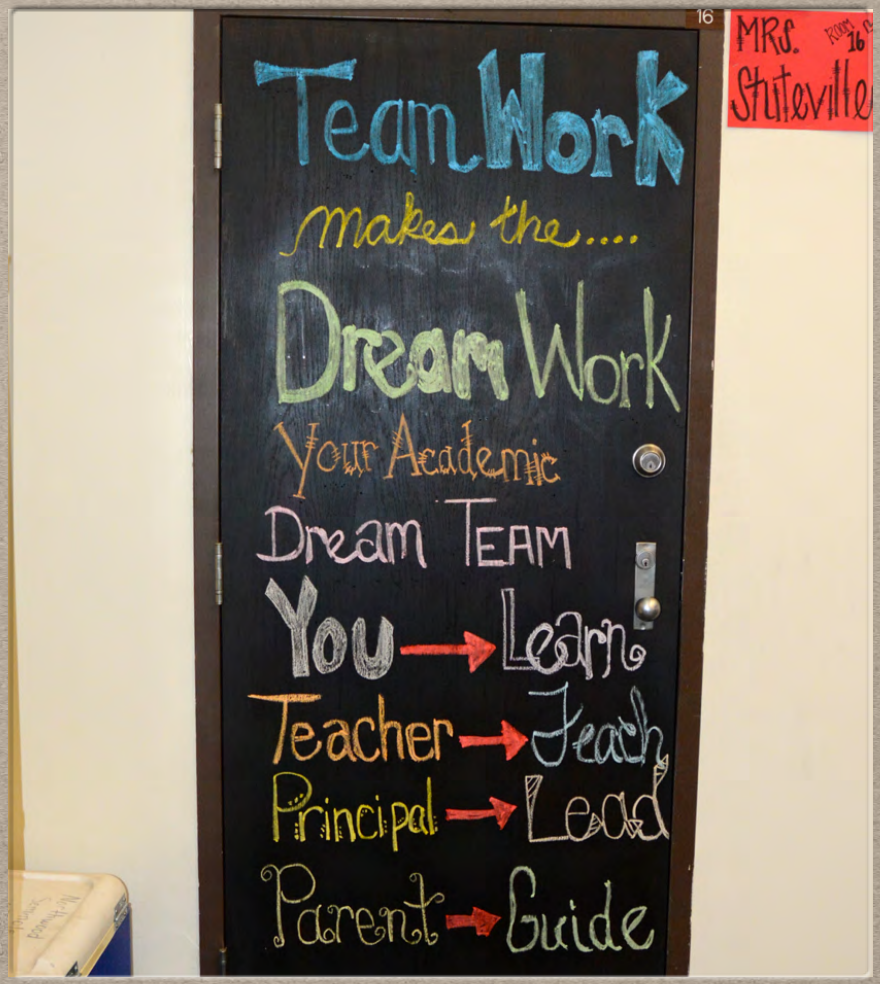
FACTORS THAT IMPACT STAFF LONGEVITY WITH THE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Relationships with program leaders, other staff, and students
- Opportunities for professional development
- Opportunities for use of knowledge and skills
- Opportunities for leadership

CHALLENGE:
DEVELOPING MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS THAT CAN PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH REAL-WORLD LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Partnering with families and schools to provide encouragement and learning support



PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Partnering with employers to provide students with work-based learning experiences

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

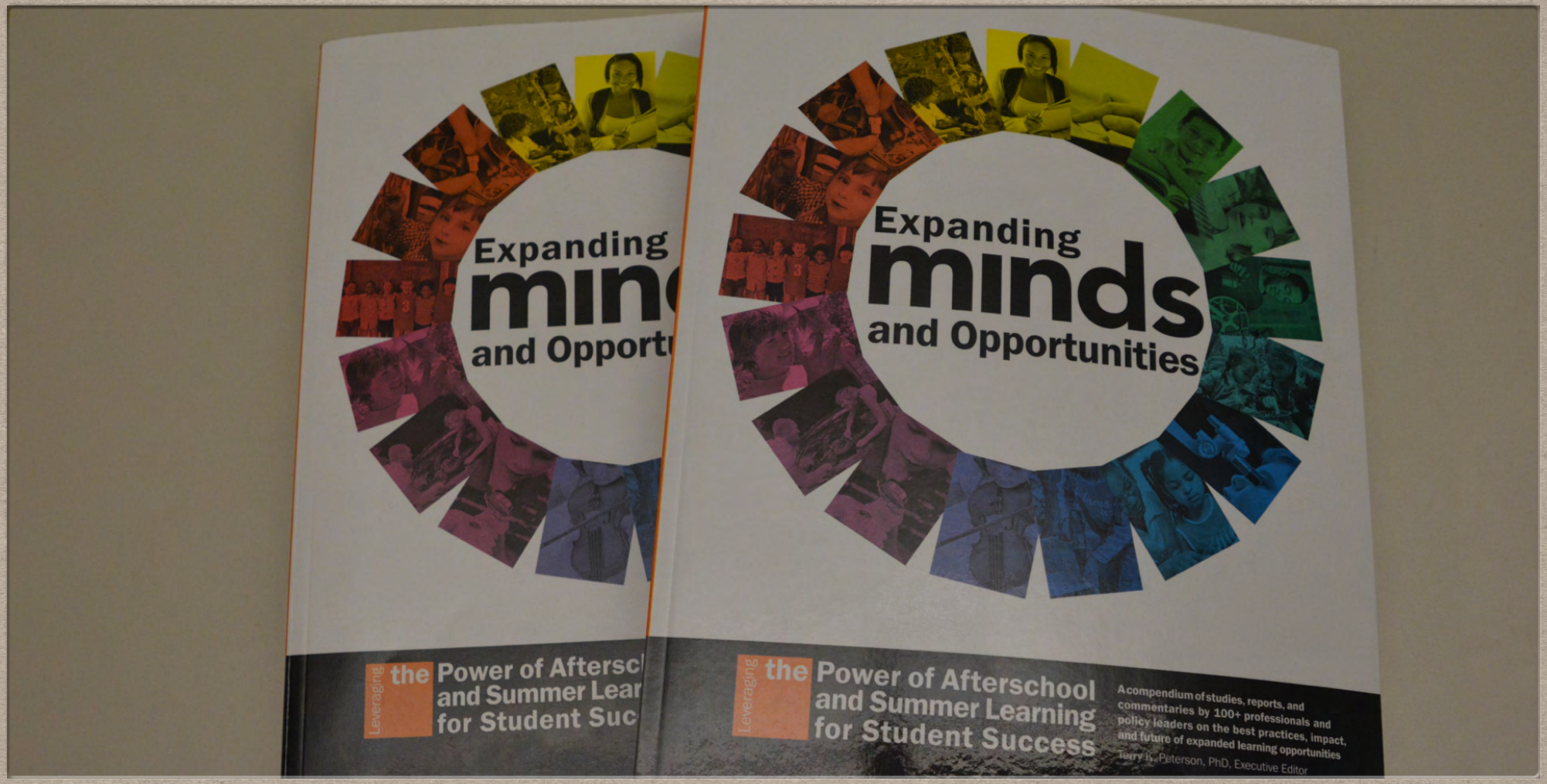
- Connecting academic studies with hands-on, project-based, experiential, and collaborative work to address local challenges

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Partnering with higher education institutions to expose students to colleges and careers

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

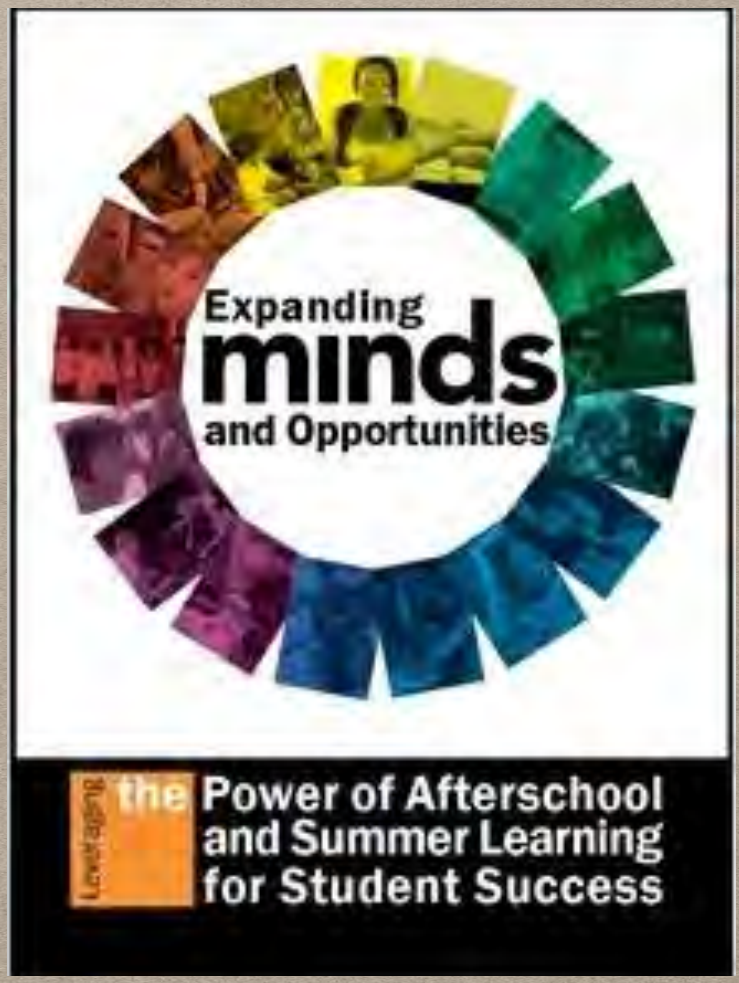
- Partnering with community-based and civic organizations to encourage students to become involved in their local community and provide opportunities for leadership



EXPANDING MINDS AND OPPORTUNITIES: LEVERAGING THE POWER OF AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

CHECK THE COMPENDIUM FOR:

- Innovative strategies for engaging high school youth
- Vivid examples of what works
- Recent afterschool research and information



RESOURCES

Afterschool Alliance
http://www.afterschoolalliance.org

Champions of afterschool since 2000, the Afterschool Alliance works to ensure that all youth have access to affordable, quality afterschool programs by providing advocacy training and information, free online publications, and a host of resources and supports for K-12 afterschool practitioners.

Harvard Family Research Project (HFRP)
www.hfrp.org

A number of online publications focused on high school afterschool are available on the HFRP website, including *Engaging Older Youth,* available at http://www.hfrp.org/out-of-school-time/projects/older-youth-and-afterschool-participation. This 2010 research study publication addresses how out-of-school time (OST)/afterschool programs keep middle and high school youth engaged over time.

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http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/iqa

https://www.facebook.com/groups/IQA.SEDL/