HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL WEBINAR
AUGUST 20, 2014

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HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL WEBINAR
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Presenters

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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

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

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
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.
REFERENCES


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Welcome to the Illinois Quality Afterschool Program.

SEDL provides technical assistance and professional development to Illinois 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLCs). We hope you will take some time to explore the resources on our website—workshop and conference archives, webinar recordings, newsletters, and resource bulletins. Do you have a question about afterschool? Illinois 21st CCLC grantees can request technical assistance from the Illinois Quality Afterschool team or you can join our private Facebook group and ask other grantees for feedback.

Click here to view a tour of the website.

Quick Links for Grantees
Our calendar of Illinois 21st CCLC events, including webinars, conferences, workshops, and data reporting deadlines.
- Workshop and Conference Archive
- Webinar Archive
- Calendar of Events
- Request Assistance
- Subscribe to Mailing List

Illinois Quality Afterschool Quarterly
The Illinois Quality Afterschool Quarterly is a resource for Illinois 21st CCLC professionals.

Grantees
Click here for an online interactive map of grantees that provides information on grantee locations, number of sites, grantee type, and contact information.

Upcoming Events
- January 29: Professional Development Advisory Group Call
- February 19: Webinar
- February 26: Special Topic Workshop: Sustainability

View All Events >

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