

ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL



# Equity, Access, and Excellence in Afterschool

## Illinois Quality Afterschool

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An Affiliate of the  
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# Presenters

- Keita Wells  
Mid-Atlantic Equity Center Consortium
- Jodie Craven  
Rochelle Elementary 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC
- Carlos Vera  
Chicago Public Schools
- Autumn Berg  
Chicago Public Schools



# *For Each and Every Child— A Strategy for Education Equity and Excellence*

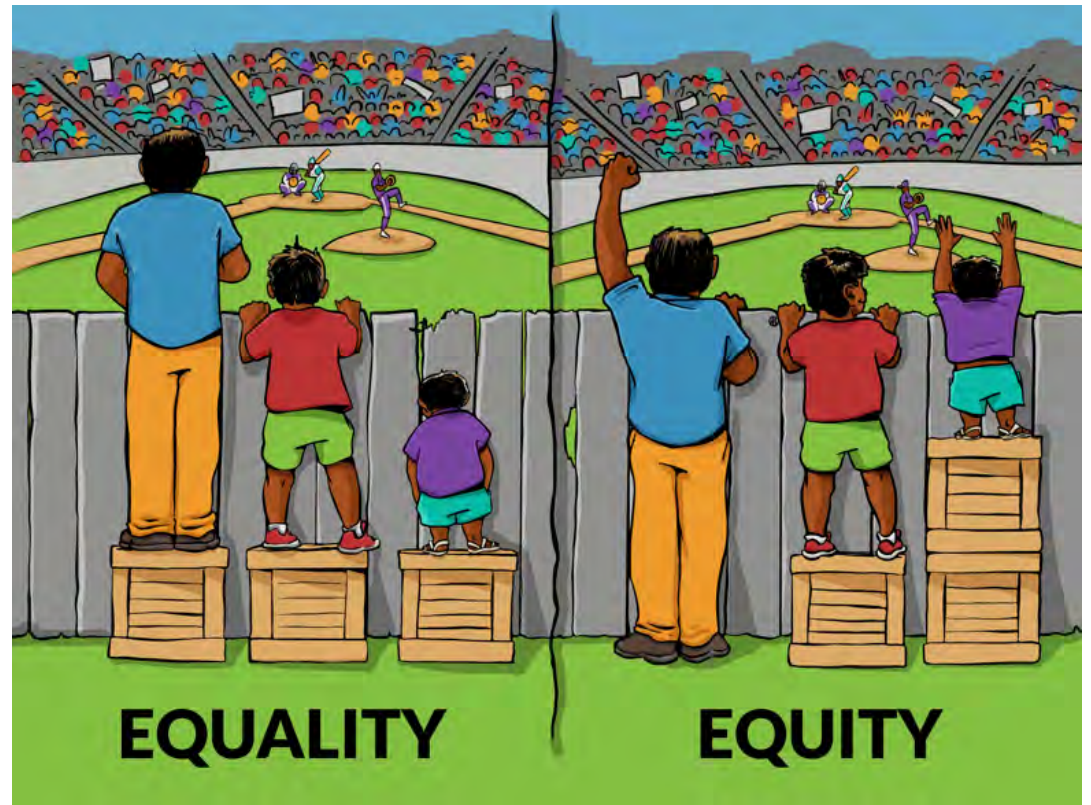
The Equity Commission  
A Report to the US Department of Education  
February 2013

- Informs the Illinois State Plan for ESSA Implementation
- Recommends sustained support for 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs for low-income students
- Includes examples of what 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs might include to provide equity, access, and quality:
  - Length of time programs operate
  - Quality content: cultural, enrichment, community service, athletics, etc.
  - Adequate, trained, and caring staff
  - Adequate facilities, equipment, and supplies
  - Safe and accessible transportation



# What do we mean?

- Equity = Fair treatment
- Access = Availability
- Excellence = Quality



<http://interactioninstitute.org>



## **Keita S. Wells**

*ALIVE 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Program Director  
(Baltimore, MD)*

*Family, School and Community Engagement Coordinator  
Mid-Atlantic Equity Center Consortium, Inc.*



# We Are ALL In...ACCESS

Access varies by geography, by community, and by individual youth and family values and relationships.



## Challenges:

- Low-income and rural communities are often underserved.
- Funding priorities, fewer opportunities, lack of transportation, outreach challenges, and lack of interest hinder participation and long-term sustainability.

## Practices That Work:

- Identify local and state funders, employers, and civic organizations that support the program's mission.
- Create programs that meet the needs of the community and include activities that motivate and engage youth.



*“EQUITY and EXCELLENCE cannot be divided.”*

*– Ernest L. Boyer*



*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”*

*– Nelson Mandela*



## EQUITY

- Adopt a more inclusive, equity-based approach to afterschool programming that meets the needs of all students.
- Expand best practices and professional development to enhance cultural understanding.
- Understand, value, and respect the backgrounds and experiences of families and students.
- Create opportunities to meet families and communities served.
- Hold open forums, parent roundtables, youth discussions.
- Conduct home visits and community walks.
- Survey needs and interests of students, schools, and communities.



# EXCELLENCE



- Expose students to culturally responsive programming.
- Meet students where they are academically and socio-emotionally to build a cadre of future leaders.
- Design programs that promote college and career readiness and leadership success.
- Make the connection between academic success and future real-world opportunities.



# EXCELLENCE



- Allow students and families to have input in the selection of enrichment activities and family workshops.
- Incorporate multicultural activities that foster civic engagement and service learning.
- Provide resources to students and their families that support personal growth and advancement in communities.



# POLL

Has your 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC taken steps to make programming:

- Equitable?
- Accessible?
- Excellent?



## Jodee Craven

*Director of Rochelle Elementary School District 231's 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant*



# Equity in the Rural Setting

Rochelle, IL

Rapidly changing demographics:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2015</u>
White	76%	51%
Hispanic	23%	42%
ELL	4%	22%
Low Income	22%	68%



# Challenges in a Rural Setting

- Lack of culturally relevant resources
- Everyday language barriers
- Community as a whole still adjusting to shifting demographics
- Difficulty finding staff to meet the diverse needs of students and families, including...
  - Pre-K
  - Bilingual Resource Teachers
  - Speech Therapists



# What We Have Done

- Hired bilingual director
- Added a section of Pre-K; Hired bilingual teacher
- Added 2 new sections of bilingual classrooms
- Starting dual language program in 2017
- Bilingual teachers in afterschool program
- Expanded Spanish language books in library
- Hired bilingual secretaries and paraprofessionals
- Community-wide support of BPAC and LULAC
- Offer parent programming in Spanish



# What We Still Need To Do

- Open another section of bilingual Pre-K
- Expand bilingual education through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Encourage teachers to learn Spanish
- Offer evaluations for special education in Spanish
- Offer community-wide Spanish language classes
- Continue to promote community programs, events, and festivals





## **Carlos Vera**

*CPS Community Schools Initiative Coordinator*



## **Leveraging Partnerships to Address Access and Equity**

Community school partnerships bring together the academic and social supports needed to ensure that all students succeed by offering programs before, during, and after the school day for students and their families. The programs are designed to support the school's academic program and expand the services offered within the community.



## Partnerships with Higher Education Institutions

- Help parents understand education landscape in the United States
- Support high school students preparing for and enrolling in postsecondary institutions
- Support elementary school students with transition to high school and career exploration process



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UNIVERSITY





*“Resources should be allocated with a focus on the creation of after school support for children living in communities where such programs are scarce.”* —Laurie Olson Reflections on Access and Equity Implications for After School Program Evaluations





# References

The Forum for Youth Investment. (2003). *Out-of-School-Time Policy Commentary #4: After-School for All? Exploring Access and Equity in After-School Programs*. Washington, DC: The Forum for Youth Investment, Impact Strategies, Inc. Retrieved from <http://forumfyi.org/files/OSTPC4.pdf>

Equity and Excellence Commission. (2013). *For Each and Every Child—A Strategy for Education Equity and Excellence*. Retrieved from U.S. Department of Education Equity and Excellence Commission website: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/bdscomm/list/eec/equity-excellence-commission-report.pdf>



# Resource Database

The screenshot shows the website header with the title "ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL" and a navigation menu including "GRANTEES", "EVENTS", "REQUEST ASSISTANCE", "ABOUT US", "NEWSLETTER", and "RESOURCES". The main content area is titled "Resource Database" and includes a descriptive paragraph, a search box with a "SEARCH" button, and a featured resource titled "Creating a Community of Practice to Support English Language Learner Literacy". To the right, there is a "Menu of Topics" list and a "Recent Resources" section.

**ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL**

GRANTEES   EVENTS   REQUEST ASSISTANCE   ABOUT US   NEWSLETTER   RESOURCES

## Resource Database

The Illinois Quality Afterschool team has created this resource database to help you and your staff provide high-quality 21st CCLC programming. Browse or search the database to find the latest information on afterschool research, best practices, tools, conference proceedings, policy briefs, professional development tools, and activities.

Choose from a topic on the right or use the search box below to look for a listing:

Search for pages that contain ALL of the word(s)

**SEARCH**

### Creating a Community of Practice to Support English Language Learner Literacy

Learning Together: Creating a Community of Practice to Support English Language Learner Literacy\* is a case study that examines an afterschool, bilingual family literacy program that brought together several groups to form a community of practice. The community of practice worked to support the literacy development of English language learners and their families.

[View Resource](#)

**Topics**  
[Academic Enrichment](#)

#### Menu of Topics

- Family and Community Engagement
- Diverse Learners
- Afterschool Enrichment
- Academic Enrichment
- Classroom Management
- College and Career Readiness
- Program Management
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Sustainability
- Technology

[Subscribe to the Illinois Quality Afterschool newsletter and resource bulletin.](#)

#### Recent Resources

### 20 Ways To Use Twitter's Vine In Education

If you are looking for new ways to use technology in your afterschool program, check out the American Society for Innovation Design in Education's blog...

[View Resource](#)

### 10 Research-Tested Ways to

[http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/iqa/iqa\\_database/resources](http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/iqa/iqa_database/resources)



# ILLINOIS QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL

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## How can we help?

REQUEST ASSISTANCE

### 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.

[VIEW CURRENT ISSUE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



#### 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 14:** Winter 2014 Resource Bulletin Release
- **February 19:** Webinar
- **February 26:** Special Topic Workshop: Sustainability

[View All Events >](#)

Search

<http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/iqa/index.html>



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