ILLINOIS STATEWIDE AFTERSCHOOL QUALITY STANDARDS
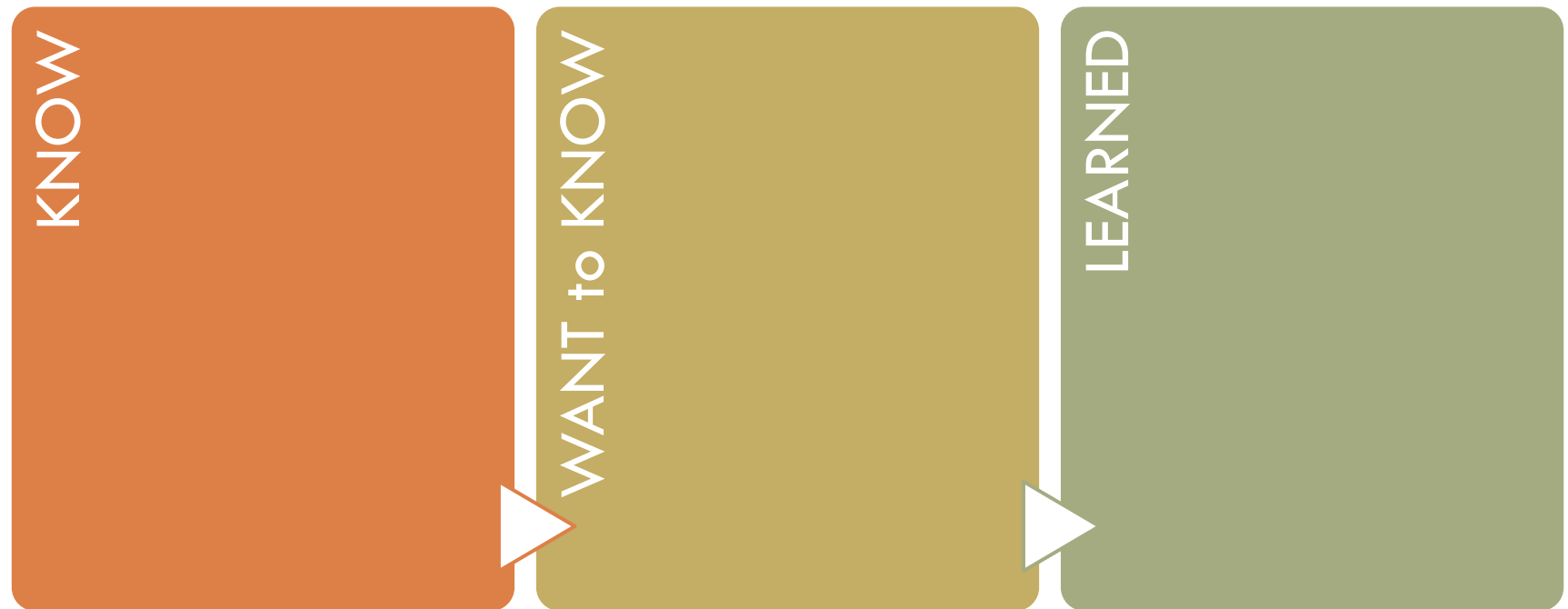
ACTN⊙W!
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Agenda

- Welcome
- Background on ACT Now
- KWL
- Background on the Standards
- Standards Resources
- IL-QPSA
- Hear From Programs
- Questions

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What is ACT Now?

- A statewide coalition that advocates for quality and affordable afterschool programs for Illinois' youth

- Our partners are:
  - Providers
  - Educators
  - State agency members
  - Community advocates
  - Youth organizations
  - Policymakers

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What do you KNOW? What do you WANT to KNOW?

KNOW

WANT to KNOW

LEARNED

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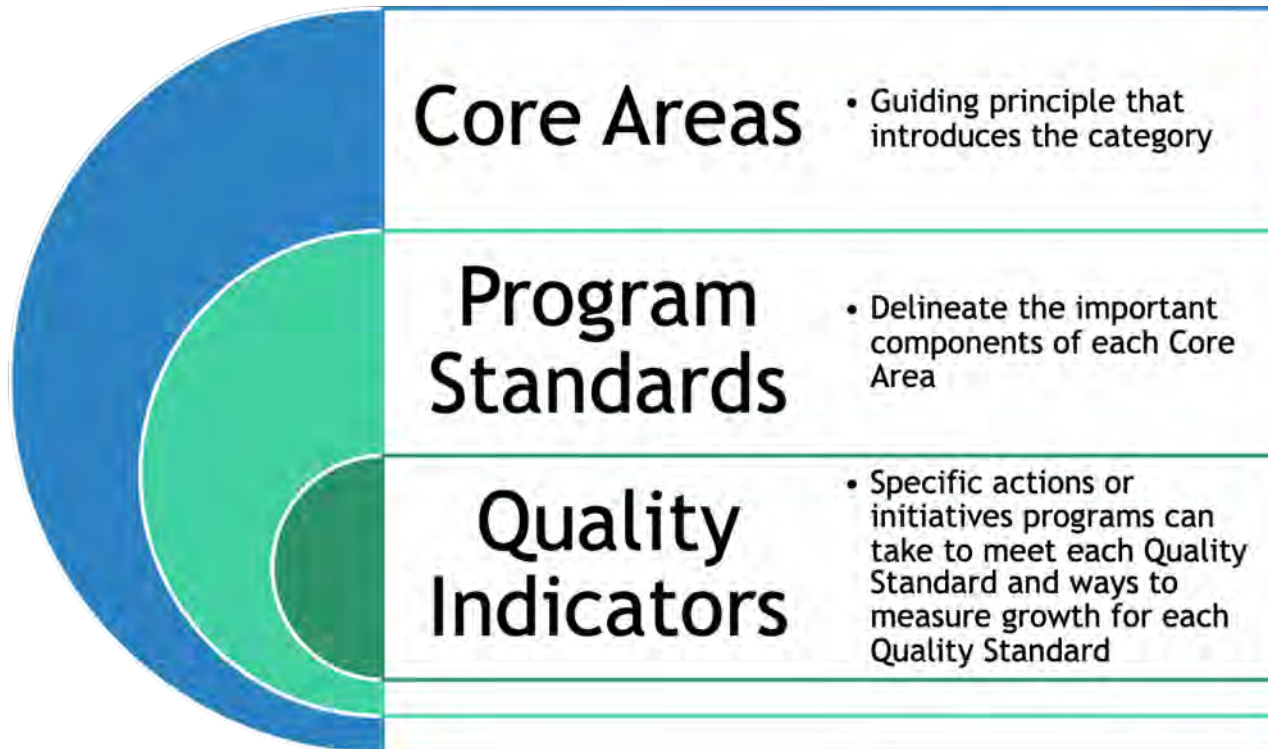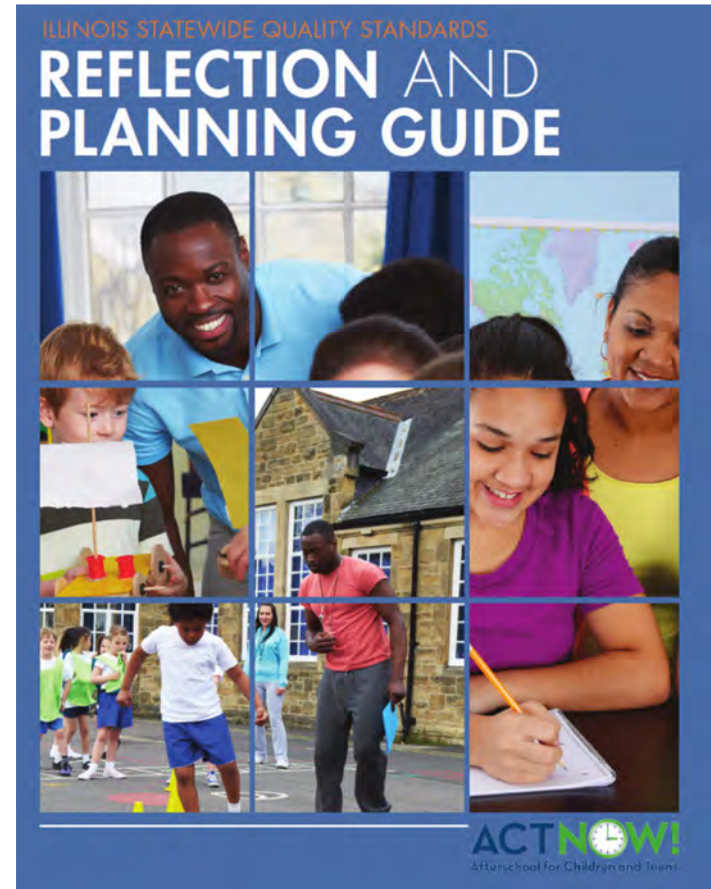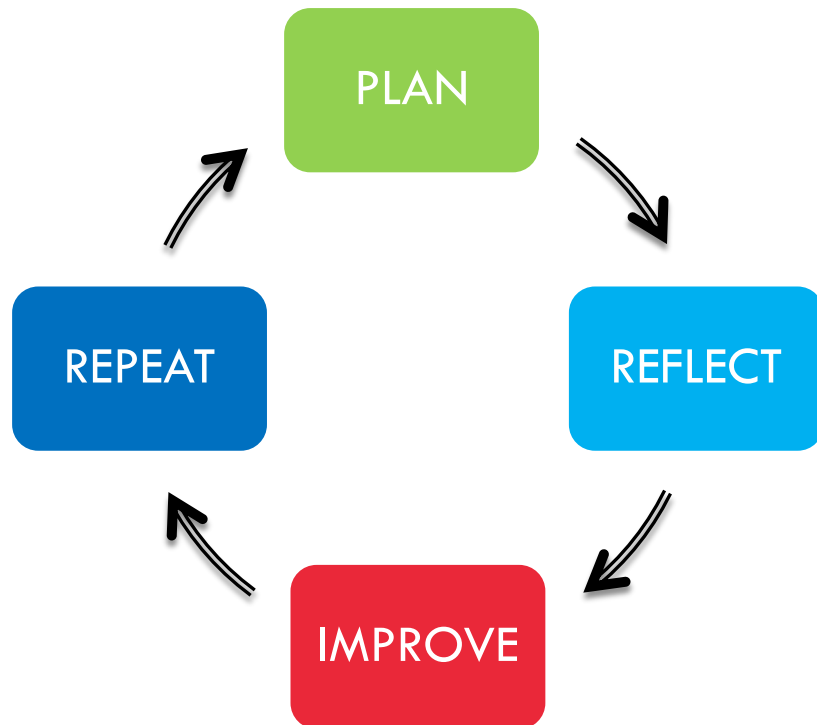Afterschool for Children and Teens

Quality Programming

- The Standards capture what has been **demonstrated, through research, to lead to positive outcomes for children.**

- Launched in May 2016

- A common language to describe afterschool quality

- Aspirational, "high bar"

- Not a traditional evaluation, we should always be striving to improve
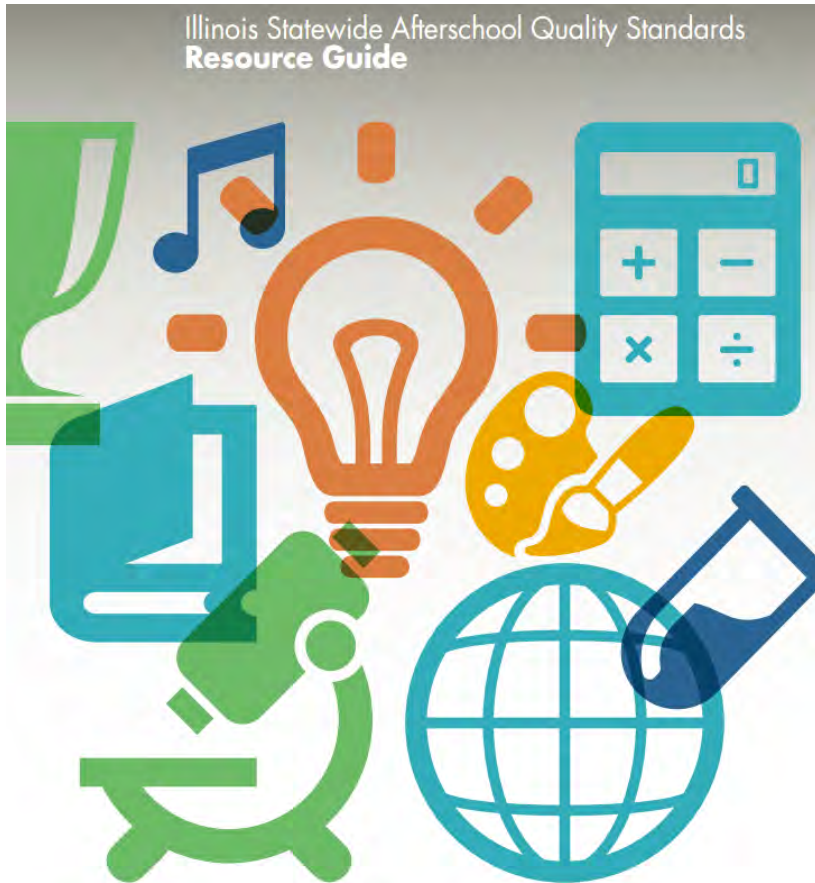

Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards

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How the Standards Are Broken Down

Core Areas
- Guiding principle that introduces the category

Program Standards
- Delineate the important components of each Core Area

Quality Indicators
- Specific actions or initiatives programs can take to meet each Quality Standard and ways to measure growth for each Quality Standard

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Reflection and Planning Guide

Resource Guide

Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards
Resource Guide

Program Standard 9

The program develops and implements a system for promoting continuous quality improvement.

Running a quality afterschool program means having a clearly articulated plan in place, collecting data about how the program is doing, and making decisions for improvement of the program based on the data you collected.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

➤ A logic model is a great visual tool to show the steps that need to take place to make your program happen. Check out the Child Trends brief, **Logic Models in Out-of-School Time Programs: What Are They and Why Are They Important?** for a clear picture of what should be included in a logic model. Access the **Logic Models to Support Program Design, Implementation, and Evaluation** webinar from the Illinois Quality Afterschool website for more information. Additionally, the Afterschool Alliance has an example logic model for the **Bright Futures Program** that may be useful.

➤ Reference the Illinois Afterschool Quality Standards when developing your continuous improvement plan. Think about how your program is addressing each Standard to identify areas of improvement.

➤ There are two helpful guides to reference when selecting tools to use in your afterschool program:

- **Measuring Youth Program Quality** is a guide to use when selecting a quality assessment tool for your afterschool program. The guide provides information on 10 instruments.
- **From Soft Skills to Hard Data** is a guide to use when selecting a youth outcome measurement tool for your afterschool program. The guide provides information on eight instruments.

It is important to disseminate the results of your evaluation to key stakeholders. Think about all stakeholders who should receive information about your evaluation and then write down the best way for each stakeholder to receive the information. For example, your board and your staff should both receive information about your evaluation; however, the board might be interested in different information than your staff.

JUST GETTING STARTED?

To ensure your program has goals that are useful and meaningful for improvement, start by making all of the goals **SMART**:

- **S**pecific
- **M**easurable
- **A**chievable
- **R**elevant
- **T**ime-Specific

Decide on an evaluation plan early on. A few questions to reflect on:
- What is the purpose of your evaluation?
- Who will conduct your evaluation?
- What are your evaluation questions?
- How will you collect program data?
- How will you collect school data?

STAKEHOLDER	DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

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Provider Handbook

☐ A crowd-sourced resource for programs to share
- How they use the Standards
- How to use the RAP Guide
- Obstacles/Solutions to using and implementing the Standards

Reflection

- At your table take a few minutes to discuss:
  - How you could or do use these resources?

Illinois Quality Program Self-Assessment

- Free online tool to help programs come together as a team to assess on the Standards.
- The online tool contains the following components:
  - Multiple automated reports
  - Program site & organization aggregate reports
  - Comparison reports
  - Program Quality Improvement Action Plan
  - Surveys for parents, youth, community partners, and staff

IL-QPSA

Email Address

Password

Log In

Forgot Your Password?

Have a Question? Email us here

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Pledge to Quality

THE PLEDGE TO QUALITY AND STEPS TO TAKE IT

The Pledge to Quality provides programs an opportunity to state publicly that they are committed to program quality and continuous improvement. Providers that take the pledge commit to the following:

- **SIGN UP** for the ACT NOW newsletter
- **ADD** your program to the ACT NOW afterschool map and database
- **REVIEW** the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards
- **SIGN UP** for the IL–QPSA
- **SELF-ASSESS** the top ten quality standards with your program team—*we recommend both program directors and site coordinators participate in this process*
  - > **Participate** in three 45–minute webinars
  - > **Create** an action plan for improvement

Once you sign up for the IL–QPSA tool, you can participate in our free quality improvement cohort. As part of the quality improvement cohort, you will learn how to build your self-assessment team(s), collect and analyze data, and form an action plan for improvement. After you complete these steps, you will receive a certificate of quality.

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Benefits to Taking the Pledge

- Weekly newsletter
- Afterschool Map & Database
- Technical Assistance & PD
- Opportunity to Network/Collaborate
- Recognition
- Poster
- Certificate

ISBE Mentors and Mentees

- Cohort Model
  - 13 Mentors
  - 13 Mentees
    - Revised schedule
    - Same technical assistance and experience

Illinois Top Ten Quality Standards

Program Standard 3:

The program protects the health and safety of all youth.

Program Standard 4:

Youth are carefully supervised to maintain safety, and there are clear protocols for responding to emergency situations.

Program Standard 9:

The program develops and implements a system for promoting continuous quality improvement.

Program Standard 15:

Staff are professionally qualified to work with all youth

Program Standard 16

Staff are given an orientation to the job before working with youth.

Program Standard Program Standard 17:

The training needs of the staff are assessed, and training is relevant to assigned responsibilities as provided.

Standard 18:

The program has a systemic approach and structure for family and community engagement.

Program Standard 22

Staff encourages all youth to make thoughtful and responsible decisions.
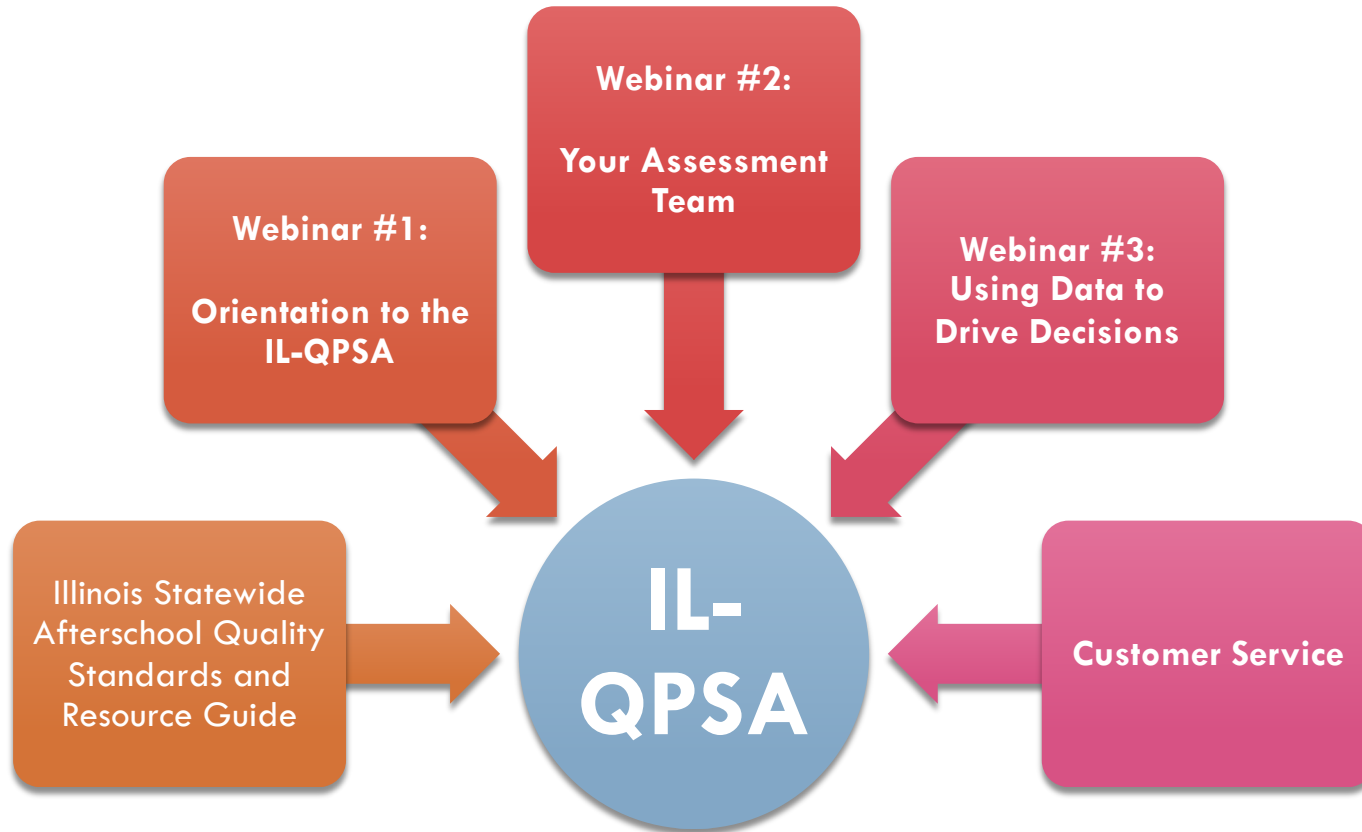
Program Standard 23:

Programs provide flexible and supportive activities for all youth.

Program Standard 25:

Staff relate to all youth in positive ways.

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The Support

IL-QPSA: What does a Self-Assessment Look Like?

Reflection Question

- At your table take a few minutes to discuss:
  - Who would you want on your assessment team?
  - How would you run the assessment?
    - Survey-based: Have people come with scores and discuss?
    - Consensus-based: Have a conversation to arrive at a score?
    - Other models?

IL-QPSA: What does a Self-Assessment Look Like?

Assessment Results

↑ Highest Scoring Standard

3. The program protects the health and safety of all youth.

Set: IL Top Ten Quality Standards

Category: Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Average Score: 5.0

↓ Lowest Scoring Standard

4. Youth are carefully supervised to maintain safety, and there are clear protocols for responding to emergency situations.

Set: IL Top Ten Quality Standards

Category: Safety, Health, and Nutrition

Average Score: 4.5

Completed Assessments (1)

Q Search...

Completed On ↑↓	Title	Sets	Completed By	Actions
12/27/2018	Standards	IL Top Ten Quality Standards		View & Download Results

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IL-QPSA: Action Plan

IL-QPSA

Action Plan

		This is always in place and consistently implemented to the fullest extent. It is fully met does... = 5
Reviewer		This is mostly in place and usually implemented to the fullest extent. At times it requires extra... = 4
Site	My Afterschool Test Site	This is implemented inconsistently or only with guidance. It is partially met. It could be ... = 3
Date	1/30/2019	This is met only occasionally. Guidance is consistently required. There is potential to be... = 2
		This is not understood and/or demonstrated. A better understanding, more information and... = 1

Specific Indicators		Score
17. The training needs of the staff are assessed, and training is relevant to assigned responsibilities as provided.		
17.1 The agency provides ongoing training and professional development		**2**
Strategies to Leverage Strengths		
Improvement Strategies		
Resources Needed		
Staff Involvement Needed		
Timeline		
Performance Target		
How will you measure success?	How will we know we are successful? What will success look like?	

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Reflections from the Field

Meet Our Panelists!

- Mentor
  - Susan Staples, Org. Admin. for Mt. Vernon City Schools
  - Enrique Alvarez, Site Admin. for Central States SER
- Mentee
  - Dr. Carl Cogar, Org. Admin. for Matteson SD 162 / Southland College Prep

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What do you KNOW? What do you WANT to KNOW?

KNOW

WANT to KNOW

LEARNED

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Contact Information

Susan Stanton, StantonS@actnowillinois.org

Emma Vibber, VibberE@actnowillinois.org

Resources can be found at www.actnowillinois.org

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