



Evaluation of the Illinois State Board of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program

The Statewide Program Evaluation of the 21st CCLC program is conducted by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC) and their subcontractors. Headquartered in Massachusetts, and with offices in Chicago, New York, and Washington, D.C., EDC designs, implements, and evaluates programs to improve education, health, and economic opportunity worldwide. Collaborating with both public and private partners, EDC strives for a world where all people are empowered to live healthy, productive lives.

EDC started working as the evaluator for the ISBE 21st CCLC program in 2013. **The evaluation is guided by the following evaluation questions, based on Illinois' program goals and objectives:**

1. Do 21st CCLC programs provide opportunities for participants to increase participation in activities and subjects such as technology, the theatre and arts, and extracurricular activities such as sports and clubs? In what ways? For whom?
 - To what extent do program participants increase participation in activities and subjects such as technology, the theatre and arts, and extracurricular activities such as sports and clubs?
2. To what extent do program goals and activities address and support increased academic achievement for program participants?
 - Have 21st CCLC program activities and services positively influenced student achievement outcomes (i.e., increased student test scores, grade promotion rates)?
3. To what extent do program goals and activities address and support increased positive behavioral changes and improved social-emotional skills?
 - What is the relationship between participation in the program and student increases in positive behaviors and social-emotional skills?
4. To what extent are 21st CCLC programs working toward being inclusive of families? In what ways?
5. In what ways are 21st CCLC programs partnering, collaborating and working with federal funding sources, agencies, other community partnerships in order to ensure family participation and benefits to the community?
6. What are the characteristics of students and families served by the subgrantees? Do the students and families served represent those with the greatest need for services?





7. What professional development and training opportunities are available to program personnel? Are these aligned with the federal and NSDC development standards?
 - How are the PD and training opportunities available related to effective 21st CCLC program implementation?
8. In what ways are 21st CCLC programs partnering, collaborating and working with federal funding sources, agencies, other community partnerships?
 - In what ways are 21st CCLC programs addressing sustainability? To what extent are programs making progress toward achieving sustainability as they have defined that goal?

To answer these questions, EDC collects data from Illinois 21st CCLC programs via annual Spring Surveys, annual Local Evaluation Reports submitted for each grant, and Site Visits to a sample of grantees. EDC also utilizes data collected for the federal APR system through the Illinois Report Card data system.

In addition to collecting, analyzing, and reporting evaluation data, EDC hosts technical assistance events and activities, such as conference sessions and webinars, to inform grantee staff about evaluation activities and build program capacity to use evaluations to inform continuous improvement. EDC also stays in touch with programs and evaluators through regular email communication. All past EDC webinars and presentations are available on the Illinois Quality Afterschool website.

EDC Evaluation Team Contact Information

Any and all questions or concerns can be emailed to EDC's 21st CCLC email account, which is monitored daily, at 21stcclc.evaluation@edc.org.

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