



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS...KEEP KIDS SAFE, INSPIRE LEARNING AND HELP WORKING FAMILIES.

MISSION

Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network's (PSAYDN) mission is to promote sustainable, high-quality out-of-school time youth development programs through advocacy and capacity building to enhance the welfare of Pennsylvania's children, youth and families.

VISION

PSAYDN's vision is that all children and youth deserve access to high-quality out-of-school time programs that promote youth development and support the successful transition to adulthood.

The Network is centered on these goals:

- Goal 1:** Create a sustainable structure of statewide, regional and local partnerships, particularly school-community partnerships, focused on supporting policy development at all levels.
- Goal 2:** Support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources that are needed to sustain new and existing afterschool programs.
- Goal 3:** Support statewide systems to ensure programs are of high quality.

Pennsylvania is one of 41 Charles Stewart Mott Foundation funded statewide afterschool networks. PSAYDN gratefully acknowledges funding and support from the Center for Schools and Communities, The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, The Corporation for National and Community and Service, The Heinz Endowments, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, The Noyce Foundation, The Wallace Foundation and PA Partnerships for Children. Formed in the fall of 2004, Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network operates out of the Center for Schools and Communities in Camp Hill, Pa. For more information or to join the network, please visit www.psaydn.org



Afterschool Programs...Keep Kids Safe, Inspire Learning and Help Working Families

What We Deserve: A Statement of Quality in Afterschool

Quality out-of-school time programs inspire and promote learning and positive youth development by providing opportunities for autonomy and leadership, caring relationships, connections to family, community and school, safe environments and engaging activities.

Our *Program Quality Value Statement* is a set of principles and ideals which we believe should guide the actions of afterschool programming, regardless of program purpose or ages served. It does not, however, indicate levels of program quality. The purpose of this statement is to provide a straightforward framework to define quality for Pennsylvania's afterschool programs and all other individuals, organizations, and entities that have a vested interest in the quality of these programs, including public and private funders, parents, and youth. Quality programming requires the following elements:

STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT

- Well-trained, consistent staff and volunteers that represent the community being served
- Written policies and procedures that are consistently used, updated and supported by management
- Sustainable funding and sound fiscal management
- Continuous improvement methods including: evaluation, outcomes measurement, participant/family input, strategic planning and professional development

POSITIVE CONNECTIONS

- Positive relationships between and among youth and staff
- Strong partnerships with families, schools, businesses and other community stakeholders
- Opportunities for youth to contribute to the well-being of the community

SAFETY AND HEALTH

- Safe and accessible environment
- Clean and well maintained facilities
- Programming and environments which promotes fitness, good nutrition and healthy choices

ACTIVITIES

- Activities which are intentionally designed, age-appropriate, develop skills, promote learning and foster positive youth development
- Activities which contain varied content, learning strategies and combine different academic, recreational and cultural elements
- Activities which are youth-centered, responsive to youth interests, and actively involve youth in program development, planning and implementation
- Activities which promote understanding and respect for youth's and others' cultures



