


pennsylvania statewide
afterschool
youth development
network

Making Connections:
Family Engagement in Afterschool
and Out of School Time

PSAYDN Mission

PSAYDN promotes 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.





PSAYDN Vision

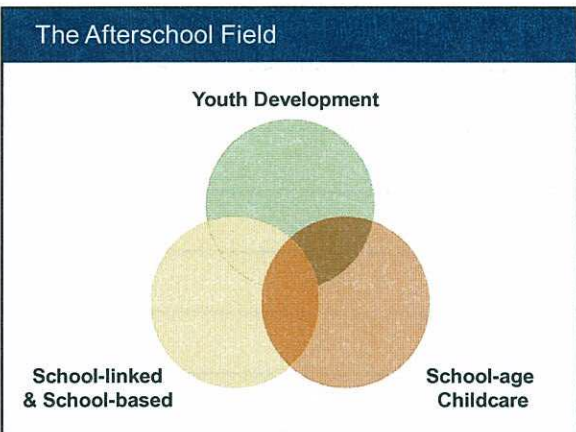
PSAYDN's vision is that all children and youth deserve access to high-quality out-of-school time programs that promote positive youth development and support the successful transition to adulthood.

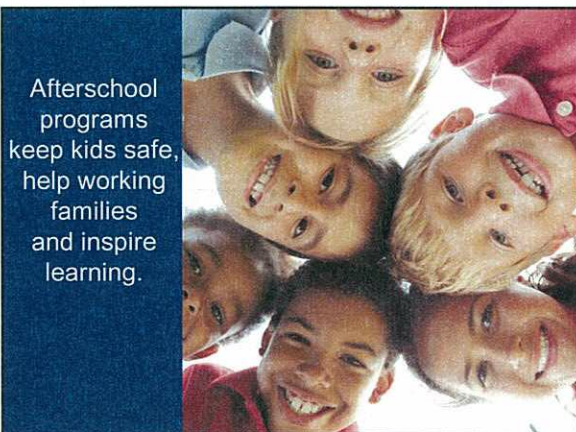
Goals

Connecting People – Create a sustainable structure of statewide, regional and local partnerships, particularly school-community partnerships, focused on supporting policy development at all levels.

Creating Opportunity – Support the development and growth of statewide policies that will secure the resources needed to sustain new and existing afterschool programs.

Changing Lives – Support statewide systems to ensure programs are of high quality.





Afterschool Programs

Children and youth who regularly attend high-quality afterschool programs have better grades and conduct in school; more academic and enrichment opportunities; better peer relations and emotional adjustment; and lower incidences of drug use, violence and pregnancy.

U.S. Department of Education. 21st Century Community Learning Centers: Providing Quality Afterschool Learning Opportunities for America's Families, September 2000.

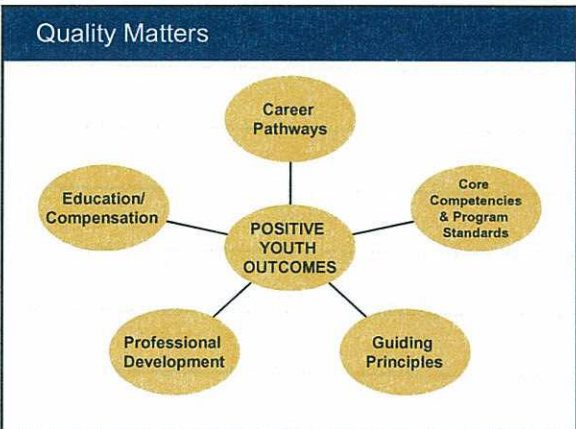


Students who participate in extracurricular activities achieve better grades, have lower rates of truancy, attain higher levels of achievement in college, and feel more attached to their schools, as documented by a 17-year study that followed 1,800 sixth-graders in ten Michigan school districts through high school and college.

Michelle Galley. Extra Benefits Tied to Extracurricular, Education Week, October 16, 2000.

Pennsylvania After 3PM Report

- **87%** of Pennsylvania adults surveyed believe there should be some type of organized activity for young people out-of-school time.
- **84%** of parents are satisfied with the program their children attend.
- **32%** of Pennsylvania parents whose children are not in out-of-school time say they would enroll their children if a program were available.
- **83%** of Pennsylvania adults surveyed support public funding for out-of-school time.



Family Engagement Expectations

What are your family engagement expectations with your child's afterschool or out of school time program?

How would you raise the bar?

National PTA

"Research shows that parent involvement in schools has multiple positive impacts: student success increases, along with teacher morale and overall school quality. It's like the secret ingredient in the recipe for educational success!"

Betsy Landers, Past National PTA President

*Review the National PTA Resolution on After-School Programs handout

Why engage parents?

- Associated with greater involvement in school events
- Increased helping with homework
- Decrease in arguing with child and increased relationship quality and trust
- Better program outcomes
- Better school attendance
- Higher graduation rates
- Reduced dropout rates and at-risk behaviors

Barriers - Activity

What are some barriers that afterschool programs face when working with parents?

Barriers

- Lack of time
- The focus is on problems rather than assets
- Lack of family engagement programming
- Lack of staff training
- Cultural differences
- Socioeconomic and language differences
- Parental attitudes
