

Defining Afterschool Program Quality



Dallas AfterSchool Network's Program Quality Initiative provides staff coaching and training around the 10 elements of a high quality program, as defined by national research.



Safe, healthy & nurturing environment

- Children greeted by name
- Regular fire drills
- Children are engaged
- Standards are met



Programs support physical, social and cognitive growth

- Activity selection by age and skill level of participants
- Academic and experiential learning activities
- Support for non-academic programming



Strong relationships among staff, participants, families & communities

- Open-door policy for parents
- Sharing resources and information
- Promoting engagement



Staff members are diverse, skilled and fair.

- Maintain appropriate staff-to-student ratios
- Academic and cultural
- Professional development opportunities available



Youth input and active engagement is encouraged

- Students help plan
- Activities are engaging and meaningful
- Variety of activities to offer students a choice



Programming aligns with and enriches school curriculum

- Collaboration with school-day staff
- Share information about student needs and progress
- Maintain ongoing communication



Strong relationships with parents, family and community

- Frequent back-and-forth communication with families and local community
- Encourage family input in decision-making



Measure outcomes and use data for improvement

- Collect qualitative & quantitative data
- Assess programs, staff performance and child engagement regularly



Sound procedures and fiscal management

- Operations handbook accessible to all employees
- Efficient student registration process
- All required documents



Vision, mission & plan for sustainability

- Mission statement and annual goals
- Plan for marketing & securing relationships with advocates and supporters