

# Quality Afterschool: What it is & Where Georgia is Heading



## WHAT IS QUALITY:

Georgia's afterschool and youth development programs provide thousands of youth – from kindergarten through high school – with a safe and enriching place to go after the school day ends. High quality afterschool programs keep Georgia's young people on track to succeed in school, careers, and life – but what does high quality mean?

## HIGH QUALITY AFTERSCHOOL AND SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS:



have flexible, well-rounded daily schedules with activities that are well organized, appropriate, and allow for learning new skills



build upon what young people are learning during the school day



are safe and clean and reflect the needs and interests of all youth



nurture positive relationships and promote a respectful environment



provide opportunities for physical activity and to practice healthy habits



need great staff and volunteers and should support their growth and development



have a clear mission, defined goals, and good financial management



need to always be improving – data collection and analysis is key



engage families and communities in the program

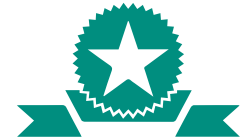
## WHY DOES QUALITY MATTER:



## THE ABCS: ATTENDANCE BEHAVIOR AND COURSEWORK

Participation in high quality afterschool programs can increase attendance, improve behavior and raise student achievement

## CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP



For low-income students who consistently participated in high-quality afterschool programs from kindergarten through fifth grade, the achievement gap in math scores between those students and their high-income peers was eliminated by fifth grade



## BETTER HEALTH

One Georgia study shows that the prevalence of obesity decreased for children participating in afterschool programs compared to those who did not participate

## CONFIDENCE AND SELF-EFFICACY



Students in afterschool programs develop better work habits, have more self-efficacy in the classroom and have better attitudes about school



## PRODUCTIVE PARENTS

Parents report that they have less stress, fewer unscheduled absences and more productive work time when their children are enrolled in afterschool programs

## MINIMIZING RISKS

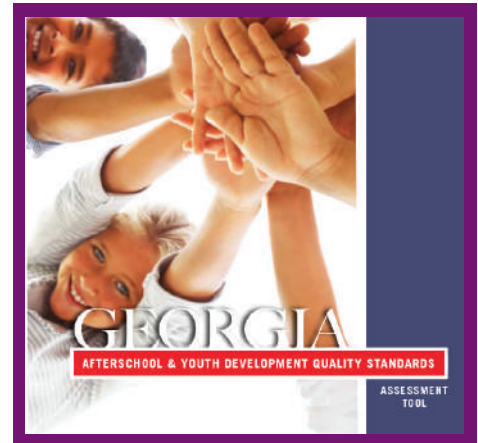
The hours between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on school days are the most likely periods for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol, cigarettes and sex



## WHERE IS GEORGIA HEADING:

### GEORGIA AFTERSCHOOL & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (ASYD) QUALITY STANDARDS

The Georgia ASYD Quality Standards is a collaborative project that is funded and endorsed by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Governor's Office for Children and Families. These standards are research-based best practice guidelines that delineate the critical components of high quality youth development programs. When adopted by afterschool and youth development programs, the standards can be used as a framework for the design and implementation of high quality programs for youth from elementary through high school.



### GEORGIA AFTERSCHOOL & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (ASYD) CONFERENCE

The bi-annual Georgia ASYD Conference, hosted by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services, the Georgia Department of Education, and the Georgia Department of Public Health, is an opportunity for afterschool programs across the state to come together. Through interactive workshops, afterschool professionals can learn best practices in positive youth development and organizational practices, network with their peers, and better understand how to utilize the Georgia ASYD Quality Standards.

For more information on the Georgia ASYD Quality Standards and Conference go to [www.georgiaasyd.org](http://www.georgiaasyd.org)



### QUALITY RATED SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM

The Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning's Quality Rated is a voluntary quality improvement system for child care and afterschool programs to achieve higher levels of quality. Afterschool programs have a specially tailored process to complete Quality Rated that reflects the population they serve.

Quality Rated can support afterschool programs with technical assistance, free training, minigrants, bonus packages for receiving a star rating, and marketing materials.

For more information on Quality Rated go to [www.qualityrated.org](http://www.qualityrated.org)

