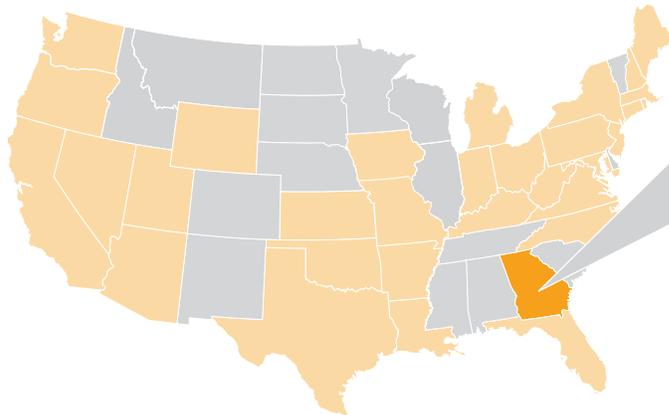


# What are the Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development (ASYD) Quality Standards?



Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development  
**Initiative**  
A collaboration between GSAN & GUIDE, Inc.

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.



Georgia joins **32** other states, including Arkansas, Florida, Nebraska and Indiana, which already have quality standards for their afterschool programs.

## EVIDENCE-BASED, RESEARCH-DRIVEN:

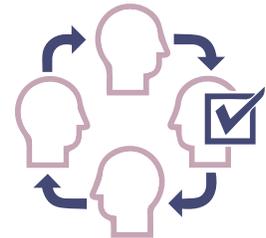


The ASYD Quality Standards are based on research from a variety of fields including **education, child development and psychology, organizational psychology, business management** and **public health**.

Each standard aims to encourage positive short-term and long-term outcomes in youth based on best practices found through this research.

## SELF-ASSESSMENT, NOT PUNISHMENT:

Programs can utilize this as a tool for quality awareness and improvement, facilitating important conversations and **setting goals among staff**.



## DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR PROGRAMS THAT:



- Serve children and youth between ages **5** and **18**
- Serve youth who attend regularly and over a long period of time
- Are well-established
- Offer youth a range of enriching experiences

## A TOOL FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT:

Studies show that programs that use a **continuous quality improvement system** are likely to see improvements in the quality of instruction delivered by staff members and even retention levels of short-term staff.



# The Anatomy of the ASYD Quality Standards

## QUALITY ELEMENTS

**9** Georgia's standards are organized into nine categories called "Quality Elements"



Programming & Youth Development



Linkages with the School Day



Environment & Climate



Relationships



Health & Well Being



Staffing & Professional Development



Organizational Practices



Evaluation & Outcomes



Family & Community Partnerships

Each of these nine quality elements includes a series of related **standards** or best practices, as well as **indicators** to help programs understand what successful implementation looks like.

# The Standards Promote Education, Families and Health

## SUPPORTING EDUCATORS AND STUDENT LEARNING

- **Keep** open and frequent lines of communication between program staff and school faculty
- **Utilize** and base activities on Georgia state academic standards
- **Offer** hands-on activities that further engage students in content from the school day
- **Incorporate** homework help and tutoring
- **Teach** students skills that will help them become academically successful, such as time management and teamwork

## STRENGTHENING FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS

- **Hold** orientations for families to learn about the program
- **Encourage** families to visit and observe the program
- **Share** positive information and constructive feedback with families regularly through written notes, phone calls and face-to-face conversations
- **Ask** families for feedback about how to improve the program

## ENCOURAGING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

- **Prevent** bullying and harassment
- **Teach** healthy eating and cooking choices and offer healthy snacks
- **Incorporate** physical activity
- **Communicate** with and provide resources to families about health



## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the Georgia ASYD Website: [www.georgiaasyd.org](http://www.georgiaasyd.org)

Visit GSAN's Website: [www.afterschoolga.org](http://www.afterschoolga.org)

SUPPORTED BY:



Georgia Dept  
of Early Care  
and Learning  
BRIGHT FROM THE START

