

Quality Afterschool: What it is & Where Georgia is Heading

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 PROGRAMS¹:



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:

High quality afterschool and summer learning programs support academic acceleration. Students have opportunities to develop positive relationships with caring adults and peers, foster cooperative learning, and develop good decision-making skills. Regular participation leads to:



Improved School Day Attendance



Gains in Reading and Math



Improved Work Habits and Classroom Behavior



Increased Graduation Rates^{2,3}



Cognitive, Social, and Emotional Development⁴



Improved Health and Nutrition⁵



Development in Positive Decision-making Skills, Self-control, and Self-awareness

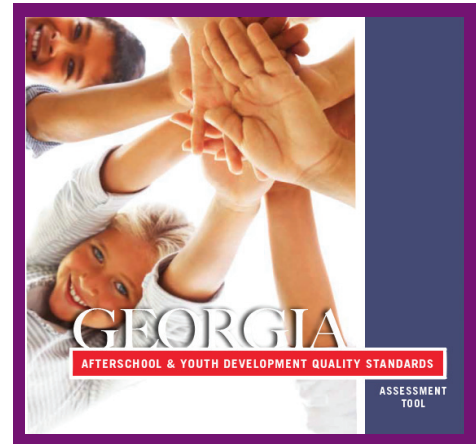


Reduction in Risky Behaviors Such as Substance Use and Misuse^{6,7}

WHERE IS GEORGIA HEADING:

GEORGIA AFTERSCHOOL & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (ASYD) QUALITY STANDARDS

A collaboration between the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network (GSAN) and GUIDE, Inc., the Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development (ASYD) Initiative is supported by the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services and the Georgia Departments of Education, Public Health, Early Care and Learning, and Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. The Georgia ASYD Quality Standards, released in December 2015, are Georgia's first quality standards for afterschool programming and provide a framework for afterschool providers to evaluate and continuously improve the quality of their programming. The Georgia ASYD Initiative provides training, coaching, and resources to providers across the state to support their quality improvement journey.



GEORGIA AFTERSCHOOL & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT (ASYD) CONFERENCE

The biennial Georgia ASYD Conference serves youth development professionals across the state of Georgia. Hosted by The Georgia ASYD Initiative, this engaging conference provides three dynamic days of research-based best practices; information, tools and resources framed by Georgia's ASYD Quality Standards; over 70 workshops to choose from; and opportunities for networking and partnership formation.

For more information on the Georgia ASYD Quality Standards and Conference go to www.georgiaasyd.org



QUALITY SUPPORTS

GSAN brings free to low-cost training opportunities and technical assistance that supports more robust and formalized quality improvement practices. Through curated resources from the most respected and well-known leaders of youth development experts in the state, toolkits, activity guides, and content specific resources are made easily accessible and downloadable to youth program providers. Professionals have the opportunity for collaboration and quality improvements through peer learning cohorts led by subject matter experts throughout the year and Quality Coaches are also engaged to support youth programs.

For more information on Quality Supports in Georgia, go to www.afterschoolga.org



1. Georgia Afterschool and Youth Development Quality Initiative. Quality Standards. Retrieved from <https://georgiaasyd.org/quality-standards/>
2. Afterschool and Summer COVID-19 Response: Helping to Meet Students' Learning Needs. (2020). Afterschool Alliance. Retrieved from <http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA%20Helping%20to%20Meet%20Student%20Learning%20Needs.pdf>
3. Hirsch, B. J., Hedges, L. V., Stawicki, J., & Mekinda, M. A. (2011). After-School Programs for High School Students: An Evaluation of After School Matters.
4. American Institutes for Research. The Science of Learning and Development in Afterschool Systems and Settings. September 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Science-of-learning-and-development-afterschool-settings-2019-rev.pdf>
5. Afterschool Alliance. A Big-Picture Approach to Wellness: Afterschool Supporting Strong Bodies and Mind. September 2018. Retrieved from http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/issue_briefs/issue_hepa_sel_72.pdf
6. Afterschool Alliance. Afterschool: Fostering Protective Factors that Can Last a Lifetime. September 2019. Retrieved from http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/issue_briefs/issue_protective_factors_75.pdf
7. Berry, T., Teachanarong-Aragon, L., Sloper, M., Bartlett, J., & Steber, K. (2019). Promising Practices for Building Protective and Promotive Factors to Support Positive Youth Development in Afterschool Retrieved from http://www.cgu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Berry_LAsBest_WhitePaper.pdf



CONTACT US | For more information on afterschool in Georgia go to www.afterschoolga.org