



NEW YORK STATE AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

An introduction by AfterSchool Works! New York

About AfterSchool Works! New York

- ✓ State affiliate for the National AfterSchool Association
- ✓ Membership association for afterschool professionals
- ✓ Promotes professional as the primary driver of program quality
- ✓ Administers the NYS School-Age Care Credential
- ✓ Lead agency for NYS accreditation model

Why accreditation?

- ✓ Provides a framework for existing quality improvement efforts
- ✓ Provides a context for professional development planning
- ✓ Measurably strengthens afterschool programs and services
- ✓ Serves as a foundation for improved outcomes for children and youth
- ✓ Fosters a better trained workforce
- ✓ Conveys a commitment to quality; informs families' decisions about afterschool care

Key features of the model

- ✓ Affordable (\$1400 - \$1800 depending on program size)
- ✓ Streamlined yet rigorous
- ✓ Rooted in collective wisdom of the field; relevant
- ✓ Recognizes state SACC regulations as baseline of quality
- ✓ Builds on existing quality improvement efforts
- ✓ Emphasizes value of self-study process
- ✓ Linked with New York Stars – the state’s Quality Rating and Improvement System
- ✓ Promotes value of accreditation coach
- ✓ Developed and administered by professional peers
- ✓ Validity and reliability through field test

Seven Steps to Accreditation

- ✓ **Step One:** The interested program reviews the accreditation process and secures a trained Accreditation Coach through *AfterSchool Works! New York*
- ✓ **Step Two:** Program representative completes the accreditation application, including self-study tool and pre-visit administrative review and submits the completed documentation to *AfterSchool Works! New York*
- ✓ **Step Three:** Within 30 business days of receipt, *AfterSchool Works! New York* reviews the documentation to ensure completeness and assigns an Accreditation Endorser

Steps to accreditation, cont.

Step Four: The assigned Accreditation Endorser contacts the program representative within 5 business days to schedule a visit within the following 30 days.

Step Five: The endorsement visit is completed within 30 business days.

Step Six: Within 3 business days of the visit, the Accreditation Endorser submits the completed paperwork to *AfterSchool Works! New York* along with a recommendation for accreditation or deferment.

Step Seven: Within 45 business days of receiving documentation, the New York State Afterschool Program Accreditation Review Board assesses the paperwork, makes the final accreditation determination and notifies the program of the decision.

The Cost of Accreditation

The fee for New York State Afterschool Program Accreditation is based on program size and must be submitted with your completed application cover page, application, program practices self-study tool and pre-visit documentation and related documents.

The price points are as follows:

- Program site with a total enrollment of 0-99 children: \$1,400
- Program site with a total enrollment of 100 – 199: \$1,600
- Program site with a total enrollment of 200 – 249: \$1,800

A customized fee structure for multi-site organizations and programs serving 250 or more children available. All fees must be paid in full prior to an accreditation endorsement visit. The cost for the accreditation coach is not included in the price points above and is negotiated between the program and the coach.

Accreditation Foundation Areas

- ✓ The New York State Afterschool Program Accreditation Program Practices Self-Study Tool is comprised of twenty-seven quality standards that represent effective practices in afterschool programming.
- ✓ The standards are grouped into six distinct foundation areas that include safety, health and nutrition; indoor space and environment; outdoor environment; programming and activities; supporting and inspiring learning; and relationships.
- ✓ These standards are defined by program performance indicators that are observable in nature. A program's performance in areas that are predominantly administrative and therefore non-observable will be determined by pre-visit and on-site documentation review.

The Self-Study Process

- ✓ The self-study process is designed to lead practitioners through an examination of their program and a quality improvement plan as a first step toward achieving accreditation.
- ✓ Programs are encouraged to engage both staff and stakeholders in the self-study process.
- ✓ The self-study team must rate and discuss the program's performance on each standard by using the scale of 0 (unmet) to 2 (met) for each indicator.
- ✓ For those indicators that the self-study team gives itself a less than satisfactory score, a plan for improvement must be created (a template is provided). It is the responsibility of all staff and stakeholders to work to meet the goals set in the plan for improvement. Your accreditation coach will be available to support you as you conduct the self-study and implement the plan for improvement.
- ✓ To attain accreditation, programs are expected to achieve level 2 on all of the performance indicators within each of the twenty-six quality standards at the time of the accreditation endorsement visit.

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