Improving Program and STEAM Resources

June 2018

STEAM Corner
Afterschool Tech Toolkit

The National AfterSchool Association (NAA) and Google announced a new support for your STEM work! This free resource includes a series of modules, webinars and hands-on training that will help you plan and prepare to integrate technology into your program. The toolkit will give you a strong foundation so you can provide students with powerful access to technology outside of classroom hours.

Start learning now! Visit www.afterschooltechtoolkit.com and click on the first module “Get Started with Technology.”

Quality Self-Assessment Tip
Plan for a Smooth Transition

As the school year comes to a close, attention turns to celebrations and, for some, to summer programs. There are a few key steps you can still take, though, to make sure your quality improvement process is as effective as possible. If you’ve done work on your self-assessment throughout the year, created an action plan, and implemented all or some of that action plan, pause to review and plan before closing up shop or transitioning to summer.

- Host a wrap up conversation with your stakeholders to look back at where you started, the progress you’ve made, and what’s on track to be implemented in the following school year. Celebrate your successes and make note of next steps so you can hit the ground running next year without losing any of the progress you’ve made. This is also a great time to reassess using the QSA tool if it’s been a while since you’ve done a self-assessment.
If your staff members are coming back next year, make sure they note the individual progress they’ve made and document what they still need to implement next year. Update your action plan to reflect any needed changes.

If you have a lot of staff turnover, work with your staff to put together results from your past assessments, action plans, and any notes on progress/next steps for the future staff to work off of instead of starting from scratch. This information goes well in a QSA binder or box that can be updated throughout the whole process.

No matter where you are in your quality improvement process, step back and take a moment to plan for how you will incorporate this work into your program next year. Whether the process you’ve been using has been successful or you need to take further steps to make sure it happens (like putting reminders on your calendar and scheduling QSA Tool updates at your regular staff or board meetings), this is a great time set your intentions for the year to come.

How does your afterschool program make a difference in the lives of young people?
Tell Us How!

The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is interested in learning more about afterschool programs in your area to better inform its grant-making. The foundation has asked Grand Valley State University to conduct a survey of afterschool programs to better understand the afterschool landscape and where funding is most needed. Can you help? Taking the survey is easy and will only take about 15 minutes of your time!

What kinds of questions will be asked?

- What geography is served by your program(s)?
- Who are the youth your program(s) reaches?
- What is special and unique about the youth you currently serve?
- When are your programs offered?
- What are the activities and outcomes of your program(s)? What aspects of your work need more support?

What can I do to make sure my organization is included?

Please schedule your interview today by following this link! Your work is important, and we want your afterschool programs to be included!

Questions? Want a copy of the results?
Contact Dr. Aaron Van Oosterhout, Research Manager, at (616) 331-9030 or vanoosaa@gvsu.edu.
Resource
Positive Change Through a Credential Process

Studies have demonstrated the significance of afterschool staff development and have attempted to show the impacts of staff training on program quality and youth outcomes.

The New York State School-Age Care Credential promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation of school-age staff members and providers. It is an opportunity for adults working with school-age children to gain professional recognition for demonstrating competence in their on-the-job skills.

Tinnycau Williams teaches the New York State School-Age Care Credential through the Network for Youth Success in New York City. In Positive Change Through a Credential Process, Williams discusses the positives of going through the credentialing process and the ways that she grew as a professional, an administrator, and a youth development professional. To read more about Tinnycau's experience with the SAC Credentialing Process, click here.

Upcoming Events

6/14: Joint Strategy- School and Community Partnerships for Wellness, Webinar
Joint efforts between school and afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs help promote a wellness continuum that can help address student health needs all day long. Join NAA and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation on Thursday, June 14, at 1 p.m. EDT to learn more about leveraging school and community partnerships to strengthen student health. To learn more and to register, please click here.

6/28: The Options Institute Introduces the College Landscape, New York City
For over a decade, the Options Institute has been training professionals to help their students get into and succeed in college. In this Partnership for After School Education (PASE) sponsored workshop, you will learn more about their trainings and sample one of the activities they do with professionals that participate in their course. The activity, which can be replicated for students, asks participants to create a word wall focused on the different types of colleges and support programs that are available for students. To learn more about this free opportunity, please click here.

6/28-6/29: Fostering Equity and Justice for Youth Conference, Maine
Registration is now open for the Fostering Equity and Justice for Youth conference. This event is a two-day professional development conference for anyone working in: education, afterschool, systems of care, juvenile justice, and law enforcement. To learn more, click here!

7/1: Breakthrough Junior Challenge Submissions Due
Breakthrough Junior Challenge is an annual, global competition for students, designed to inspire creative thinking about science. Students, ages 13 to 18, from countries across the globe are invited to create and submit an original video, no more than 3 minutes in length, that brings to life a concept or theory in the life sciences, fundamental physics or mathematics. The submissions are judged on the student’s ability to communicate complex scientific ideas in the most engaging, illuminating, and imaginative ways. The student winner receives a $250,000 college scholarship, their school gets a new $100,000 state-of-the-art science lab, and their teacher wins $50,000 teacher prize. Learn more about how to enter here!

7/12: National Summer Learning Day
National Summer Learning Day is a national advocacy day aimed at elevating the importance of keeping kids learning, safe, and healthy every summer, ensuring they return to school in the fall ready to succeed in the year. Your participation sends a powerful message across the nation that summers matter and offers an opportunity to showcase how summers can make a life-changing difference in the lives of young people. Find more information as well as some ways to celebrate here!

7/13: Health Professions Seminar on Adolescent LGBT Healthcare, Hudson/Capital Region
The purpose of the Health Professions Seminar is to provide an educational forum to discuss vital topics of healthcare delivery that are harmful to the LGBT community and their well-being as a whole. It is the intent of the Health Professions Seminars to instill overdue change by increasing the knowledge base of healthcare providers and support staff caring for LGBT patients and to encourage adoption of LGBT culture-friendly practices throughout the healthcare community. The intended audience for this program is physicians, nurses, social workers and all other healthcare professionals (clinical or non-clinical) who provide health-related services to the LGBT patient population as topics will relate to both healthcare services as well as the patient care experience. More information can be found here!

7/24: PASE @ PACE, New York City
The 2018 PASE@PACE Conference is the only conference of its kind in New York City, inclusive of all staff levels and accessible to organizations with budgets of all sizes. Dozens of workshops offered that are consistent with the engaging and informative professional development you have come to expect from the Partnership for After School Education. Networking opportunities to meet and build relationships with colleagues from across the region. Panel discussions featuring leading practitioners from the afterschool field, sharing their expertise on practice, research, and trends. More information and registration can be found here!

7/29-7/31: New York STEM Education Collaborative 2018 Conference
STEM educators, save the date for a summer conference! The New York STEM Education Collaborative wants you attend their 2018 conference! This organization unites state teacher associations in science, math, engineering, technology, and related fields in one conference. Come to Alfred, NY July 29th to 31st to connect with educators, businesses, and leaders from around the state who want to improve STEM education! More details can be found here!

11/10: Rochester Training Institute, Rochester
Our Rochester Training Institute is returning and will take place Saturday, November 10th, 2018. For more information please click here!

11/12-11/14: Summer Changes Everything, Missouri
Join hundreds of summer learning and expanded opportunity leaders on November 12-14 in Kansas City, MO for National Summer Learning Association’s annual conference devoted entirely to
summer learning. What to expect? The nation's top summer time leaders from across the country sharing and discussing effective learning approaches, systems building, program planning, policies, and ways to advocate for our nation's children. More information and registration can be found here!

5/10-5/11: Network for Youth Success Annual Conference, Saratoga Spring
Save the Date! Back by popular demand for one more year in Saratoga Springs! Stay tuned for more information!