



WHY ...

New York State Network
for Youth Success
Program Accreditation?

Program accreditation is the ultimate indication of program quality. It also provides afterschool professionals with performance indicators, benchmarks of quality to guide program planning, implementation and evaluation. Accreditation also serves to guide families in making more informed choices about afterschool care for their children. Moreover, the accreditation process supports a team approach to program improvement and fosters a competent, caring, and qualified staff.



WHO ...

Is New York State Network
for Youth Success?

The Network for Youth Success supports all programs that promote young people's intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development outside the traditional school day. These programs include those that serve youth in kindergarten through 12th grade, take place in schools and/or in community-based settings, and occur before and after school, during weekends, holidays, and summer breaks, or during the school day through partnerships with community organizations.

The Network for Youth Success convenes partners and coordinates them around a common agenda focused on partnership development, policy development, and capacity building. The network connects practice with policy across a broad range of state, regional, and local partners that represent the afterschool, expanded learning, community schools, and youth development fields broadly.

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THE NEW YORK STATE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR PROGRAM ACCREDITATION



nys NEW YORK STATE
NETWORK FOR
YOUTH SUCCESS

QUALITY STANDARDS

SAFETY, HEALTH, AND NUTRITION

A quality program promotes the safety, health, and nutrition of all participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 1 The inside and outside environments are clean and safe from any observable hazards.

QUALITY STANDARD 2 Systems are in place to ensure the safety of all children, especially as they move from one place to another.

QUALITY STANDARD 3 The staff supervises participants according to their ages, abilities, and needs.

QUALITY STANDARD 4 The staff uses safe and healthy practices.

QUALITY STANDARD 5 The staff is responsive to the individual health needs of each participant.

INDOOR SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT

A quality program provides a safe physical space for all participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 6 There is enough room for all program activities and all participants.

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT

A quality program provides regular access to a safe outdoor space for all participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 7 Every participant has an opportunity to regularly play outdoors during program time, weather permitting.

QUALITY STANDARD 8 Participants have access to a variety of developmentally appropriate outdoor equipment and games for both active and quiet play.

QUALITY STANDARD 9 Available outdoor equipment is suitable for the sizes and abilities of all participants.

PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES

A quality program provides a rich array of activities and opportunities that support the physical, social, and cognitive growth and development of all participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 10 Staff plan, organize, and provide programming and materials that meet the developmental needs of all participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 11 All participants are regularly engaged and encouraged to participate in a wide variety of activities.

QUALITY STANDARD 12 Staff actively promotes youth-led activities.

QUALITY STANDARD 13 There are sufficient materials to support program activities.

QUALITY STANDARD 14 The staff involves participants in activities that help them learn positive social values.

QUALITY STANDARD 15 The staff actively promotes cultural awareness, understanding, and diversity.

QUALITY STANDARD 16 There are regularly scheduled times for creative arts and dramatic play.

SUPPORTING AND INSPIRING LEARNING

A quality program is academically responsive and provides activities that are aligned with, and enrich, learning standards and curricula.

QUALITY STANDARD 17 The staff encourages participants to be in charge of their own learning.

QUALITY STANDARD 18 The program actively supports participants' academic development by providing a rich array of learning and enrichment activities.

RELATIONSHIPS

A quality program develops, nurtures, and maintains positive relationships and interactions among staff, participants, families, and communities.

QUALITY STANDARD 19 Staff members respond appropriately to the individual needs of participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 20 Staff members are actively and positively engaged with participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 21 Staff members treat all participants fairly and equitably.

QUALITY STANDARD 22 Staff members use positive techniques to guide the behavior of participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 23 Staff members promote respect and positive social interaction among the participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 24 Staff members encourage participants to make choices and to become more responsible.

QUALITY STANDARD 25 Staff members work well together to meet the needs of participants.

QUALITY STANDARD 26 The staff and families interact with each other in positive ways; including social and educational events and frequent, regular communications.