



# EMPOWER YOUTH SUCCESS

## MISSION

To strengthen the capacity and commitment of communities, programs, and professionals to increase access to high-quality programs and services beyond the traditional classroom.

## NETWORK VISION

We believe that ALL youth deserve the right to participate in expanded learning opportunities that support their success in school, college, work, and life.

### Why the Network:

- ✓ We are the only statewide organization dedicated to increasing access to high-quality programs beyond the traditional classroom
- ✓ We educate the community on the value of expanded learning opportunities
- ✓ We offer high-quality professional development
- ✓ We work to professionalize the field

## FAST FACTS ON AFTERSCHOOL, SUMMER, & EXPANDED LEARNING

- ✓ **Support student growth and learning.**  
 Regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs has been found to contribute to higher student achievement, including significant gains in standardized test scores, grades, and work habits.
- ✓ **Keep students safe and reduce negative behaviors.**  
 The hours from 3 pm to 6 pm are the hours of highest risk for youth to commit a crime or be a victim of a crime. Afterschool program participation leads to a decrease in negative behaviors, including a decline in drugs and alcohol abuse, and participation in gang and other criminal activities, when compared to non-participating students.
- ✓ **Help working families.**  
 On average, the amount that New York State families pay for afterschool care is nearly 7 times what it costs the State to fund high-quality afterschool programs. Parents also miss an average of eight days of work per year due to a lack of afterschool care. Decreased worker productivity related to parental concerns about afterschool care costs business up to \$300 billion per year.

# NETWORK INITIATIVES

## REGIONAL NETWORKS

We support the capacity building of programs at the local level through regional networks. Regional networks help share best practices, coordinate local professional development resources for programs and providers, and provide effective means to distribute information and engage programs and parents on state and local policy issues. All afterschool, summer, and expanded learning programs and stakeholders are invited to participate in our regional networks.

## POLICY AND ADVOCACY

We seek to increase access to high-quality programs for all students in need of a safe place to learn when school is not in session. We make recommendations related to federal and state funding for expanded learning opportunities based on feedback from the field, provide testimony in support of those recommendations, track the history of public funding, and keep stakeholders and the media informed of important issues in this field.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We provide training and technical assistance to programs, hold webinars to inform the field, and host an annual conference for professionals every spring. Additionally, the Network hosts Regional Training Institutes around the state throughout the year.

## STEM

We promote informal Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning in New York through the Expand STEM Initiative. This project focuses on connecting expanded learning opportunities with STEM expertise from K-12 schools, higher education, and businesses.

## NUTRITION

We seek to increase the sustainability of afterschool programs by helping eligible programs enroll for reimbursement for their afterschool meals and snacks through the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

## PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

We facilitate program improvement through accreditation, the ultimate indication of program quality. Accreditation provides afterschool professionals with performance indicators, benchmarks of quality that guide program planning, implementation, and evaluation. Moreover, the accreditation process supports a team approach to program improvement and fosters a competent, caring, and qualified staff.

## SCHOOL-AGE CARE CREDENTIAL

We administer the New York State School Age-Care (SAC) Credential, which promotes quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training, and evaluation for afterschool professionals. In addition, the Network offers a full distance learning option for the credential coursework.

## MEMBERSHIP

We offer professional development, resources, tips and tools for programs, advocacy alerts, support of your regional network, and much more. When you join the Network, you are helping empower youth success. Together we are louder, stronger, and better able to communicate a unified message.

## QUALITY SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL

We believe that clear quality standards and ongoing program assessment are central to building effective and sustainable afterschool programs. A quality program is one that is reflective, willing to improve, change and grow, and believes in successful outcomes for its participants. Moreover, practitioners must understand that improving program quality is an ongoing process. Self-assessment provides an important opportunity for programs to identify strengths and weaknesses free from the pressures of external monitoring and evaluation. It is upon these concepts that the Quality Self-Assessment (QSA) Tool is based.

## NEW YORK STATE NETWORK FOR YOUTH SUCCESS

415 River St, 2nd Fl  
Troy, NY 12180  
(518) 694-0660

81 Prospect St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(646) 943-8671

