THANK YOU Afterschool Professionals, QSA Tool Information, and More!!
August 12, 2020

Spotlight: Thank You Afterschool Professionals

As the school year rapidly approaches and we reflect back upon the past five months, one thing sticks out quite clearly – childcare workers are essential. The upcoming school year will be challenging and, in large parts, unpredictable, but afterschool programs are essential to America’s economic recovery. Many families will need extra help with a staggered school schedule so parents can return to work. They will need help with remote school requirements, assistance in catching up from lost learning, and support in reconnecting after months of isolation.

Our country will emerge from this pandemic in a different place, and that includes childcare. The landscape we once knew for afterschool, summer, and expanded learning will look vastly different than in pre-COVID times. But afterschool professionals have always been creative. We have to think on our feet when we get displaced from our program space at the last minute, and think creatively about how we will rearrange our program all in the few minutes before the children walk inside. I have no doubt that each of you is already thinking creatively about how to best support students and families this fall.

Afterschool professionals have stepped up during this time, providing virtual programming, checking in on families, distributing meals to families, staying open to serve children of essential workers, and more. You have all done amazing work throughout these troubling and uncertain times. I commend you for your efforts and for your resilience. Afterschool programs and professionals, such as yourself, are helping students catch up and keep up.
But through all of this, we recognize the incredible challenges you have faced, both personally and professionally. And we want you to know, the Network is here for you.

From all of us at the Network – thank you. Thank you for always being on the frontline. Thank you for never giving up. And thank you for being an essential worker.

Thank you,

Kelly Sturgis
Executive Director
NYS Network for Youth Success

Is your program working hard to offer quality services to your community? Let us know about it by filling out a quick questionnaire and we will spotlight your program in an upcoming newsletter.

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**Keep Up the Story of how COVID-19 is Affecting Afterschool and Summer Programs**

Throughout June, the Afterschool Alliance asked for stories of how COVID-19 has impacted afterschool and summer programs and the young people and families who rely on them to keep kids safe and engaged in learning. Nearly 1,000 programs stepped up and completed the survey! The findings are now being shared with federal policymakers – right in the midst of important decisions about federal funding. There is a new data dashboard that allows you to filter the data by region. The Afterschool Alliance and the National Summer Learning Association are teaming up to ask you to keep the story up to date by completing a follow-up survey that focuses on what programming you’ve been able to offer this summer and what your plans are for fall. The survey should take no more than 10-15 minutes of your time and your responses will be anonymous. To thank you for your time, 50 respondents to the survey will be randomly selected to win a $50 cash prize.

[Click here](#), to start the survey.

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**QSA Corner: QUALITY SELF-ASSESSMENT (QSA) TOOL**

Improving afterschool program quality must begin with a commitment on the part of practitioners to examine their programs with a critical eye. 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. As your program changes and adapts to new structures, safety standards, and participant needs, it is a good time to review the QSA tool and keep an eye on program quality. For those looking to engage stakeholders around the QSA Tool virtually, check out the Network’s recent webinar recent webinar recording for tips.

[Click here](#), for more information.
A Blueprint for Afterschool Programs to Assist Schools with Reopening

From the White House to governors’ mansions, there's a lot of discussion surrounding how and when schools should reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. Ultimately, that conversation will need to happen in about 13,500 school districts nationwide, with each locality developing a plan reflecting their own situation on the ground. To help inform those conversations, Afterschool Alliance, national partner of NAA, has released *A Blueprint for How Afterschool Programs & Community Partners Can Help.*

For more information, click here.

Network for Youth Success Events

9/23: Fall SAC Credential Course (VIRTUAL), Capital District
The New York State Network for Youth Success administers 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. You must live in the Capital Region to sign up for this course. Click here to register. For more information email asalamonepowers@cdymca.org.

9/2020 - 12/2020: Distance Learning
The Distance Learning School-Age Care (SAC) Preparatory Course includes viewing recorded videos, reading, and preparing a portfolio and resource file. This class meets the education requirement to be a Site Director in New York State. We are now enrolling for Fall 2020.

Our Annual Conference will be held on April 23rd & 24th, 2021. Be ready for two full days of trainings on a wide variety of topics, various vendors, awards, networking, and more! Stay tuned for more information.

Other Events
8/13: SEL Tools for Active Learning
In addition to preparing for the unknowns of the upcoming year, communities are still navigating the difficulties of living through a pandemic for the past few months and the grief, loss, fear, and change that we have experienced. Schools are turning to social emotional learning to provide community-wide support as we enter a new school year. In this webinar, they’ll discuss considerations for SEL in different learning environments to help you plan for various models of reentry. To register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674844345767230734&simpl=msg-f%3A1674844345767230734).

8/13: The PEAR Institute Supporting Quality Learning Experiences in Virtual OST
Join a discussion about virtual summer and afterschool programs with Gil Noam (director of The PEAR Institute), Georgia Hall (director of the National Institute on Out-of-School Time [NIOST]), and Kim Robinson (managing director of the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality and executive vice president of the Forum for Youth Investment). For more information, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674844345767230734&simpl=msg-f%3A1674844345767230734).

8/13: The Aspen Institute Long-Term Vision of Education Success Webinar
Inequities that existed long before the pandemic are on stark display as the year unfolds, particularly as they pertain to racial injustices for people of color. If we are to link school success to community success, including the future of work, we need to respond to the forces reshaping America. Nothing less than the health of democracy is at stake and that warrants a lively panel discussion followed by actionable insights from those in the field. Dr. Johann Neem from Western Washington University will discuss the future of democracy, Columbia University’s Dr. Jason Wingard will focus on the future of work, and high school student Mandy S itu of the Generation Citizen Student Leadership Board will remind us all that the future is now. For more information, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674844345767230734&simpl=msg-f%3A1674844345767230734).

8/18: Learning and Teaching Antiracism in Expanded Learning Programs
Across the nation, many schools and programs have had to adapt creatively to ensure children and families have access to high-quality summer learning programming. Join the National Summer Learning Association, Generation Teach, and San Diego Unified School District as they dive into agile and creative expanded learning programs that have elevated student voice, identity development, and courageous conversations around race and social justice. To register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674844345767230734&simpl=msg-f%3A1674844345767230734).

8/19: Why Educator SEL is Critical This School Year
In this webinar, they’ll discuss why educator social-emotional development is so important—especially this school year. They’ll provide actionable strategies to help you support your own SEL, ideas for how to approach your administrators regarding educator SEL, and research to help you advocate for this important topic. To register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674844345767230734&simpl=msg-f%3A1674844345767230734).

8/20: Inventing Tomorrow
WXXI Education invites you to this special, virtual training to explore the film and education materials connected to *Inventing Tomorrow!* This virtual educator training will provide clips of the film, an overview of new curricular materials created to support the film, free science materials for your classroom, and time to learn about how these environmental issues and problem solving strategies connect to your students. Gary Abud, Jr., Michigan Teacher of the Year for 2014, and a very special guest associated with the film will join! For more information, or to register [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674844345767230734&simpl=msg-f%3A1674844345767230734).

10/22: Lights on Afterschool
The 21st annual *Lights On Afterschool* will be a full week of virtual, in-person, and hybrid events and activities to help afterschool programs, and the children and families they serve, celebrate. From posters and giveaways to seven days of themes and lots of exciting partnerships — there will be a digital space to share activities, bring in old and new afterschool friends, and offer strategies to have an incredible celebration of America’s afterschool programs and everything they do for our kids. For more information or to register, [click here](https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0?ik=9eab5ba277&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1674844345767230734&simpl=msg-f%3A1674844345767230734).

Fall 2020 (Multiple Dates): Core Body of Knowledge Virtual Training Series
Explore how the CBK is to be used as the foundation for professional preparation and development of New York’s early childhood workforce and how it fits into the broader scope of training and coaching protocols. The CBK can provide a framework for supervisors and trainers to evaluate performance of individual staff and support the planning of professional development to ensure that it is intentional and relevant to the strengths, interests, and needs of each teacher. The session will include a review of materials; small group discussions; and hands-on, interactive activities to help trainers develop meaningful professional development opportunities. To register, click here.

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For regular updated resources regarding COVID-19 check out our COVID-19 Resource Page.

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