

# Program Quality News

From the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

Program Quality News connects education and human service leaders with research, case studies, tools and training to improve the quality of youth programs.

## Feature

### Creating Cultural Competency in Afterschool



How can a sense of belonging impact a young person's experience in an afterschool program? Holy Chea, a program associate for the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation, uses his own life experiences to raise the bar for students just like him - ones with a variety of cultural and economic backgrounds. Chea describes how he ended up on the path to success all because there were caring adults in his life in this new blog from ParentMap. This blog is the second in a nine-month series that explores how new voluntary standards developed in Washington state are impacting the quality of afterschool programs that serve about 134,000 youths.

[Read more>>](#)

## Reports and Guides

### Texas OST Standards Report Highlights Weikart Work

The Weikart Center has long known that quality OST programs increase success for youth. And while there are many programs that exist to support OST efforts, each state generally needs to define their own standards to accommodate the priorities of state agencies.

Texas Partnership for Out of School Time has released a report detailing standards for high-quality programs. The report highlights the work of the Weikart Center in the "How Do Standards Improve Program Quality?" section, as well as offers tools and information for parents, families, funders and policymakers.

[Read more>>](#)



## TIME SPENT LEARNING MATTERS

In Texas, an average school year is 180 days.

An average school day is 7 hours.

Only 21.6% of a child's waking hours are spent in school.

Every waking moment is a new opportunity for a child to grow and develop.

### Every Hour Counts: Vermont Students Succeed with Expanded Learning Opportunities

There are more than 22,000 Vermont students who would be participating in an expanded learning opportunity if they had access to one. Which means that there are more than 22,000 lost opportunities in helping these children and youth reach their full potential.



This was just one of the driving forces that prompted Vermont's Prekindergarten-16 Council to create a working group dedicated to reviewing and evaluating issues of equity in and access to Vermont's Expanded Learning Opportunities, including afterschool and summer learning programs. This report details their findings and recommendations of next steps that all can learn from.

[Read more>>](#)

## Calendar of Events

### Webinar: Planning with Data for Network Leads: Sustaining the Quality Improvement System through Goal Setting

What does Assess-Plan-Improve sequence look like at the network level? Assessment and evaluation can supply a wealth of valuable data about the quality of a youth programs. An effective quality improvement system uses the data to direct and implement change. This webinar will provide network leaders a space to reflect on the data from this program year and set goals for next year.

When: May 12, 2 p.m. ET

[Register here>>](#)

## Webinar: Using Data to Build, Grow and Sustain Your Afterschool System

How can afterschool systems best leverage data to build, grow and sustain their efforts?

Join the American Youth Policy Forum and Afterschool Alliance to hear from afterschool system leaders on how they are using program data to support the growth and development of their systems. Presenters include Charles Smith, executive director of the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality (a division of the Forum), Mila Yochum, director of Allegheny Partners for Out-of-School Time, and Lisa Caruthers and Michelle Amos, both of Cooperative for After-School Enrichment - Harris County Department of Education.



American Youth  
Policy Forum

When: May 13, 2 p.m. ET



[Register here>>](#)

## Achieving Collective Impact: How Partnerships Change Community Outcomes

The Forum for Youth Investment and Collective Impact Forum are teaming up again to help communities effectively carry out collective impact strategies. This three-day institute provides a survey of five key steps in collaborative work and how these steps put partnerships on a clear path to improving lives.

This institute is designed for leaders, staff and volunteers of partnerships working to improve community conditions and outcomes. The institute is particularly useful for organizations that provide support to overarching leadership councils, provider partnerships, prevention coalitions and neighborhood groups. Participants are strongly encouraged to send community teams representing multiple partnership members.

the **BIG PICTURE** APPROACH

June 23-25, Seattle, Wash.

[Find out more.](#)

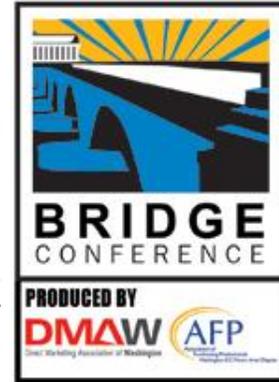


## Opportunities

### What is at the Heart of Learning?

During this year's Bridge Conference, participants will explore the big question: What is at the heart of learning? Rather than focusing on getting the "right answer," educators should develop good questions, support children and youth in the process of learning and inspire curiosity.

This conference will provide informal and formal educators with the vision and tools they need to facilitate inquiry for children and youth. Sessions will explore current research on learning, the role of educators to instigate learning, global perspectives on the importance of building curiosity and how inquiry-based learning supports a more equitable education.



When & Where: Oct. 19 & 20 at the University of Washington

[Register here>>](#)

### National Summer Learning Association

The Weikart Center's partner in the Summer Learning PQI, the National Summer Learning Association, is hiring!

[Find out more here>>](#)

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The Forum for Youth Investment is the proud parent company of The Ready by 21 National Partnership, the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, the Children's Cabinet Network and SparkAction.org.

