

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

Scores Reporter 3.0 Release and Intro Webinars

The Scores Reporter, our online data system developed to assist with the collection of assessments, production of planning reports and creation of improvement plans, will have a new appearance starting this September! Along with visual updates, the system has been redesigned to improve functionality and ease of use.

We invite you to join one of our upcoming webinars where we will provide an overview of the updates and demonstrate some of the new system features. For more information or to register, please select one of the dates below.

[Thursday - August 13, 2015 - 3:00 - 4:00 PM EST](#)

[Tuesday - August 18, 2015 - 3:00 - 4:00 PM EST](#)

Seattle Schools Stay Open to Prevent "Summer Slide"



How can school districts make summer learning fun for youth?

In an effort to prevent summer learning loss, Seattle Public Schools, with help from School's Out Washington, introduced Summer Staircase - a six-week math and reading program that focuses on learning opportunities for elementary-aged students.

[Read more](#) about the program and why focusing on the kindergarten through fourth grade is essential to future success for youth.

Reports and Guides

Growing Together, Learning Together: Building After School Systems

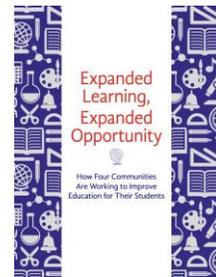
When it comes to a successful afterschool system, why reinvent the wheel? Essential elements of such systems are discussed in [this perspective](#) from the Wallace Foundation. Additionally, the role of data to improve program quality and a comprehensive approach to quality are examined in reference to our friends in Nashville, Baltimore, Fort Worth, St. Paul and more!



A Closer Look at Expanded Learning Systems in Varying Stages

"Expanded learning opportunities are about more than improving educational outcomes. They are about improving equity for all of our children."

In [this case study](#) from America's Promise Alliance, expanded learning opportunities in four communities are examined with varying practices and experiences. Each community is at a different stage in making more and better learning a reality for youth, and these differences suggest that communities need not follow one established model to succeed.



Elevating Quality Rating and Improvement System Communications

Thirty-nine states have adopted quality rating and improvement systems (QRIS) to rate and support child care and education providers and centers serving children birth to age five. Communications play a critical role in engaging providers, parents, partners, policymakers and the public in QRIS. From Child Trends' communications team, [this report](#) provides examples of what some states are doing to market their QRIS and recommendations for other states.



Opportunities

Manager of Performance Information and Data Products

The Weikart Center is hiring a manager to oversee the Performance Information and Data Products unit. The primary responsibility of this position will entail leading the Weikart Center toward design and implementation of a next generation of data collection technology and data product designs.



This is a management position for a mid-career professional with strong project management skills and experience with data management systems that is based out of Ypsilanti, Mich. Interested candidates may review the [job description](#).

Youth Work Methods TOT in Kansas City, November 3-5

Registration for the Youth Work Methods TOT in Kansas City is now open! Please forward to any interested clients and feel free to pass questions to Ravi Ramaswamy at Ravi@cypq.org.

View the full [flyer](#) and [register](#) by September 18th!

Program Officer Position

The Raikes Foundation is hiring a new program officer to help deepen their work in youth homelessness prevention and enhance education/employment outcomes.

Interested candidates may review the [job announcement](#).



Research of Note

Research of Note: New Study Replicates Relationship between Instructional Quality and Student Engagement

In July, the Texas Education Authority posted the third report in a multi-year evaluation of 21st CCLC conducted by American Institutes for Research and partners. This report includes an excellent afterschool theory of change based on the more general QuEST theory of change developed for Weikart Center clients. Findings from the evaluation replicate evidence of association between program quality and student engagement. Specifically, for a sample of 43 observations and 401 youth in TX 21st Century programs, the quality of instruction measured by the Youth PQA total score was positively associated with student engagement. This was true for student engagement defined in terms of both behavior (i.e., observations that students are on task) and youth's motivation-related beliefs about the afterschool content (i.e., interest, challenge). Importantly, this association was apparent in academically focused programs which had generally lower levels of student engagement, as well as in more enrichment based programs. These findings replicate the positive association between quality as assessed by the Youth PQA and student engagement in afterschool content in prior samples from the TX statewide evaluation (Naftzger et al., 2014) and multiple studies conducted by the Weikart Center (Akiva, 2013). While this report is a dense read, it represents another important step in modeling the association between specific teacher practices, youth motivation and skill development in afterschool settings and the transfer of these skills to school day classrooms - making it one of the pre-eminent afterschool evaluations currently underway.

Read the full report [here](#): Texas 21st CCLC: 2012-13 and 2013-14 Combined Evaluation Report (Naftzger et al., 2015)

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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.

