

# 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.

## FEATURES

### How to Use 21st CCLC Money for Expanded Learning Time

The federal government released the highly anticipated answers to questions about how providers can use a new waiver in afterschool funding for expanded learning.

Under what is known as Waiver 11 to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, providers may use 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) funds to support Expanded Learning Time (ELT) activities during the school day, in addition to activities during non-school hours or periods when school is not in session. The state has to request the waiver from the Department of Education.



The department's answers to Frequently Asked Questions cover such issues as:

- What is expanded learning time in the context of this new flexibility?
- What are some examples of models or activities that a 21st CCLC subgrantee might consider, consistent with the waiver?
- How can digital learning support ELT?
- Does the 21st CCLC "supplement, not supplant" provision apply to using the funds for ELT?
- Will this change the responsibilities of the State Education Agencies that monitor subgrantees using 21st CCLC funds to support expanded learning?

[Read the full FAQ document.](#)

### New Type of Student Poll Takes Schools Beyond Academics

When school leaders in one Northern Kentucky community saw the results of an enhanced version of the Gallup Student Poll, they were struck to find that many middle schoolers did not have high hopes about their future. School officials saw that they needed to nurture and engage middle schoolers beyond the classroom - and worked with community partners to create new afterschool programming to address that need. [This short story](#) explains the enhanced poll and how one school district used the results.

## Assess/Improve Process Boosts Success at "Innovation Schools"

Anyone who has carried out the [Youth Program Quality Intervention \(YPQI\)](#) might be interested in how some of the same principles are contributing to success at innovative schools in Massachusetts. [This newspaper story](#) says schools participating in the "Innovation Schools" initiative report higher staff morale, better parent and student engagement, and overall academic success.

Some of the practices at these schools are similar to those promoted in the YPQI - namely, assessing against common, valued standards, and planning for improvement. One state education official explained it like this:

"We hear that staff morale is high at innovation schools because they are both required and empowered to be part of the planning process. We're also hearing reports of really increased family engagement and student engagement in learning. When everyone gets together around a plan it can be very invigorating."



## CALENDAR

### Network Leader Learning Community Webinar: The Care and Feeding of Quality Improvement Systems

Building a Quality Improvement System is one challenge, sustaining it is another.

Hear lessons from the field about strategies to sustain and grow your system beyond the life of just one grant or initial pilot funding. Strategies include communicating effectively with the right stakeholders, building mutually beneficial partnerships, and developing balanced and diversified funding streams. This webinar will be facilitated by the Weikart Center in conjunction with Cross & Jofus and will feature representatives from two systems who will share successes and approaches to sustainability.

*\*Target audience: Current Weikart Center clients and network/system leaders who are building and managing quality improvement systems.*

**When: July 16, 1 p.m. ET**

**CROSS & JOFTUS**