

# 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.

## UPDATES

### Quality Assessment Opportunity for Homeless/Runaway Youth Services

Independent and transitional living programs have a new opportunity to implement a proven tool to increase program quality.



The Weikart Center is looking for collaborators to pilot the use of the Youth Program Quality Assessment (Youth PQA) in transitional and independent living programs. The Youth PQA is an observation-based measure of positive youth development practice that has been validated in a randomized trial and is used in over 3,000 out-of-school time sites in 38 states.

Networks and agencies that work with runaway or homeless youth are invited to contact the Weikart Center to pursue collaboration on piloting the use of the Youth PQA in their programs, and to participate in advising about the creation of a Youth PQA specifically for such programs. Training and technical assistance are available.

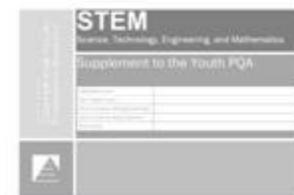
The Weikart Center gave a presentation about the Youth PQA earlier this week at the [National Runaway and Homeless Youth FYSB Grantee Conference](#).

**[Click here to email Ravi Ramaswamy for more information>>](#)**

### Improving STEM Programs

A new tool is available to help improve the quality of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programming.

The STEM Program Quality Assessment (PQA) is an observation-based measure of instructional practices to support continuous improvement. The Weikart Center developed the tool through its work with the Providence After School Alliance and its AfterZone Summer Scholars program. The Center also conducted a preliminary analysis of the tool's reliability and



validity based on data collected during that program.

The supplement is available for download for low-stakes uses in programs.

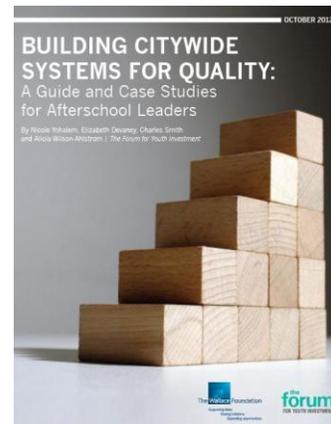
**[Read more and download the STEM PQA here>>](#)**

## REPORTS

### Case Studies about Improving Afterschool Quality

New resources are available for those working to improve the quality of afterschool programs:

- The Forum for Youth Investment published [Building Citywide Systems for Quality: A Guide and Case Studies for Afterschool Leaders](#), a how-to guide to support the development of quality improvement systems in afterschool settings.
- Education Week [blogged](#) about the guide.
- The report was the subject of a webinar hosted by the Wallace Foundation (which commissioned the report), and Wallace has posted the webinar [here](#).



Now the Weikart Center (a division of the Forum) is offering free coaching calls on quality improvement in afterschool settings. The offer is open to the first 20 requests.

**[Learn more here>>](#)**

### Understanding How Quality Improvement Occurs

When it comes to improving program quality, managers hold the key. That's one lesson from a new study in *Afterschool Matters*, a journal published by the National Institute on Out-of-School Time, about how participation in a continuous quality improvement initiative produced higher-quality practices in Rhode Island's afterschool programs. *Understanding the "How" of Quality Improvement: Lessons from the Rhode Island Program Quality Intervention* found that quality improvement begins with program managers, who then lead the process of change.

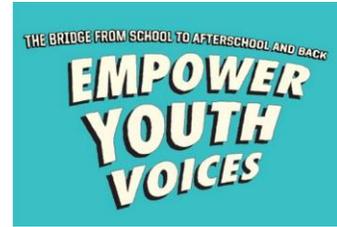


**[Read the study here >>](#)**

## PRESENTATIONS

## How Afterschool Programs Can Focus on Youth Outcomes

At the [Bridge From School to Afterschool and Back Conference](#), in Seattle, Charles Smith, executive director of the Weikart Center, talked about how quality improvement systems can make a difference for child and youth outcomes. He discussed a theory of change associated with the Youth Program Quality Intervention, a site-level quality improvement model used in over 70 quality improvement systems across the country.



[See slide presentation here>>](#)

## OST Programs Can Boost Family Engagement

How can OST programs engage families to support middle school transitions? Charles Smith, executive director of the Weikart Center, presented an intervention design and a set of design principles aimed at answering this question at the recent [Youth Nex conference](#) at the University of Virginia.



The Weikart Center found that afterschool programs can boost young people's school success by supporting family engagement in school alignment, academic socialization, and connections to school and community.

[See slide presentation here>>](#)

## CALENDAR

### Getting Better Every Day: Improve With Camp Program Quality Assessment

This webinar is focused on helping participants become familiar with a program self assessment process conducted with the Camp Program Quality Assessment (Camp PQA), an instrument developed by the American Camping Association and the Weikart Center.



We will share how the Camp PQA might be used in camp programs as well as provide related training resources. A program administrator from the Camp Fire National Headquarters will share insights from recent implementation of the Camp PQA used as a part of the Camp Fire Program Quality Initiative. Join us to jump-start YOUR improvement process!

**When: Dec. 11, 1:00-2:30 ET.**

**Cost: Free**

[Register here>>](#)

## Ready by 21 National Meeting

For years we've been working toward the same goal: Getting all young people ready by 21 for college, work and life. It's time to once again come together to share our experiences, to learn from each other and to hear new ideas.

That's why we're asking you to save these dates: March 11-13, for the second annual Ready by 21 National Meeting!



The National Meeting will bring together hundreds of leaders like you from all over the country who dedicate themselves to improving the odds for children and youth through collective impact initiatives, policy alignment and program quality improvement. You've come to Ready by 21 along several paths:

- The Ready by 21 National Partnership and the Quality Counts initiative
- The David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality
- The Forum for Youth Investment's Policy Team

The 2013 Ready by 21 National Meeting will give you a chance to network with colleagues and experts from around the nation about what we've accomplished together and how we'll move forward. You'll hear about research, experiences and strategies for creating change and measuring impact in programs, communities and states. You'll learn how leaders have:

- Adopted Standards for creating effective change.
- Implemented Solutions to achieve goals.
- Achieved Success that can be measured.

In the coming weeks, you'll get more information through e-mails and on the Ready by 21 National Meeting website. Registration and the hotel block will open in early December. We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

**Where: Atlanta, Geo., Mar. 11-13.**

[Find out more >>](#)

## [SUBSCRIBE TO PROGRAM QUALITY NEWS](#)

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.



[Forward this email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to tom@cypq.org by [gina@cypq.org](mailto:gina@cypq.org) |

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)  | [Privacy Policy](#).

David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality | 124 Pearl Street | Suite 601 | Ypsilanti | MI | 48197