

Program Quality News

From the David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality

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

Join the Weikart Center at the Ready by 21 National Meeting



Registration is open for the Ready by 21 National Meeting in Palm Beach County, Florida, on **April 18-20, 2018**. Join the Weikart Center staff and partners engaging in YPQI at the pre-meeting on April 18 from 1-5 PM where we will be digging deep into system supports, data design, YPQI innovations and our SEL measures.

The [National Meeting](#) brings together local, state and national leaders who, like you, are committed to improving partnerships, policies and practices for children and youth. These leaders manage change at all levels - from state policy coordination and community-wide cradle-to-career efforts to out-of-school time systems, single-issue coalitions and neighborhood-based initiatives. They come from business, nonprofits, education, policy, philanthropy and intermediaries at the national, state and local levels.

The Forum for Youth Investment and the Weikart Center invite you to [review the agenda](#) and [register today!](#)

Please note that the hotel room block for the Ready by 21 National Meeting ends in one week, on Friday, March 30.

Resource Highlight

Report Shows Positive Growth for Out-of-School-Time Programs in Louisville

"Our programs that we work with are making a difference in the lives of the young people that walk through the doors every day," said TJ Delahanty, spokesman for Metro United Way. "And that's the important takeaway: the investment is worth the effort."

A report published this month shows how out-of-school time programs in Louisville have improved and grown since 2014, expanding the amount of BLOCStar sites across the city from 38 to 77 as of spring 2017. The ultimate goal of BLOCS programs is to improve the academic performance and social-emotional intelligence of young people so that they will be college and career ready.

Using the YPQI, BLOCS was able to measure and improve upon the key components of successful youth programs defined as safe and supportive environments, positive interaction and engagement with youth people. Data provided by the Weikart Center based on PQA external assessments for youth and school-age programs showed overall growth

in these categories over the 3-year period.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Publications

Quality-Outcomes Study for Seattle Public Schools Summer Programs, 2016 Program Cycle

During the summer of 2016, Seattle Public Schools, the Raikes Foundation, School's Out Washington and the Weikart Center collaborated on a quality to outcomes study to describe performance in Seattle Public Schools' summer learning programs in ways that are useful to staff and provide evaluative evidence for an instructional model that includes challenging academic content and responsive instructional practices. Summer program offerings were well-attended and characterized by high-quality instructional practices, with a majority of students increasing their literacy and math skills during the program.

[Read the full study here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Social and Emotional Learning Starts with Adults: A Thought Leadership Conversation with WINGS for Kids

April 5, 2018
2:00 - 3:00 PM EDT

Are culture and climate more important than an SEL curriculum? WINGS for Kids says yes. Over the last 20 years, WINGS has learned that in order to effectively teach social and emotional skills, you must first possess your own social and emotional skills. Adults who model emotional intelligence provide the critical foundation for trusting and positive relationships to be formed. When adults are skilled in the core social and emotional competencies, they are supportive and engaging, take responsibility for their choices and actions, manage their emotions, deal with conflicts, and are open to feedback. It's only when adults possess strong social and emotional competencies that kids soar.

WINGS for Kids, the only evidence-based SEL program designed specifically for after-school, believes that social and emotional learning is less about a checklist of items to teach and more about adults modeling social and emotional skills. Join us on April 5 as Karen Pittman speaks to Bridget Laird and Nicole Lovecchio from WINGS for Kids to learn more about the WINGS approach, their intentional focus on adult skills and practices, and their plans for taking WINGS to scale across America.

[Register today.](#)

Capacity Building

Are you a manager or site leader who wants to support your program sites through the Quality Improvement Cycle? Are you interested in building your capacity to offer professional development opportunities to your program staff?

The Coaching for Continuous Improvement training is designed to support and enhance the skills of individuals who provide coaching and technical assistance to program managers

within a quality improvement system.

Upcoming Coaching for Continuous Improvement Training:

- **Louisville, Ky.: May 23-24, 2018.** The registration deadline is April 30. [Enroll here.](#)

If you are interested in attending a capacity building training, [fill out this form](#) so we can contact you when opportunities are available.

[Click here for more information on capacity building trainings.](#)

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