

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.

Report from Washington State: *Expanded Learning Opportunities Quality Initiative*

In October, a report emphasizing the importance of Expanded Learning Opportunities was submitted to the Washington Legislature by the Washington State Department of Early Learning (DEL) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The report is the culmination of more than a year of research and coaching with 50 afterschool and summer learning programs across four counties in Washington State. It comes with support from several partners including the Raikes Foundation, School's Out Washington, the University of Washington, and the Weikart Center. The findings of the initiative contribute to the growing amount of evidence illustrating the positive effects that high-quality afterschool and summer learning programs have on young people.

[Read the full report and findings here.](#)

Spotlight Series: SEL and the Brain

Dr. Charles Smith, founder and Chief Knowledge Officer of the Weikart Center, will be the featured speaker at the Children's Institute Spotlight Series "SEL and the Brain: What's the Connection?" this week in Rochester, N.Y. This seminar focuses on how Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) can help children and youth develop the skills to manage their emotions as well as learn impulse control, self-discipline, and stress management, [sharing the latest Weikart Center research on the subject.](#)

Great Start to Quality for Out-of-School Time Programs

Out-of-School Time (OST) programs in Michigan can now participate in Great Start to Quality, Michigan's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), a program that provides tools and resources to OST programs to engage in a process of continuous quality improvement. As of December 1, 2017, **only programs serving school-agers** are eligible to participate. Programs can achieve a Star rating that reflects quality above and beyond licensing requirements for OST programs. More information on how to engage in this new opportunity is available on their [website](#).

Upcoming Event

Registration Now Open for the Ready by 21 National Meeting

Registration is now open for the Ready by 21 National Meeting in Palm Beach County, Fla. on **April 18-20, 2018**. [Register from now through Feb. 2](#) to receive the best rate.

The [National Meeting](#) brings together more than 500 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.

The Forum for Youth Investment and the Weikart Center hope to see you there!

[Register to receive email updates from Ready by 21.](#)

Job Opening

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver

Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver is currently seeking a *Program Quality Director* to join their dynamic, forward-thinking team. The Program Quality Director is responsible for organizational alignment with Denver Afterschool Alliance's Continuous Quality Improvement System.

[View full job posting here.](#)

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