

Element 5 Programming/Activities

A quality program provides a well-rounded variety of activities and opportunities that support the physical, social, and cognitive growth and development of all participants.

A quality program:

1. Provides activities that reflect the mission of the program.
2. Addresses academic, physical, social, and emotional needs of the participants.
3. Features activities that are commensurate with the age and skill level of the participants and enable participants to develop new skills during the program year.
4. Offers project-based, experiential activities that promote creativity and development of participant self-expression.
5. Offers high quality academic support, including tutoring and/or homework help.
6. Offers enrichment opportunities in core academic areas as well as in the arts, technology, recreation, and health.
7. Includes activities that take into account the language and culture of the participants.

8. Establishes and follows a schedule that is known to all staff, participants, and their families.
9. Provides a range of opportunities in which participants' work can be showcased.
10. Integrates opportunities for the development of personal responsibility, self-direction, and leadership throughout the program.
11. Provides reasonable accommodations and special materials as necessary for youth with disabilities during the program and at special events.
12. Employs a variety of grouping strategies, for both structured and unstructured activities, including individual, small group, and large group.
13. Provides regular opportunities to be outdoors.
14. Provides supports as children and youth transition across age groups and school grades, and school day to afterschool.
15. Offers activities that develop global competencies in youth, build 21st century skills (e.g. digital literacy, cross-cultural skills, innovative thinking, etc.), and prepare them for college, career, and citizenship.

Element 6

Linkages Between Day & After School

A quality program has its staff work closely with school staff to ensure that afterschool academic components and activities are aligned with and enrich school standards and curricula.

A quality program:

1. Secures commitment of resources (e.g., classroom space, bulletin boards, storage space, computer facilities, and site coordinator's office) from school principal, when possible.
2. Maintains communication with school principal and administration.
3. Establishes strong links to the school day.
4. Incorporates programming that integrates and complements school day activities.
5. Collaborates regularly with school-day personnel regarding use of facilities and resources.
6. Supports state and local performance standards and benchmarks.
7. Communicates with school-day staff to monitor academic and behavioral progress of students.
8. Allocates sufficient program time for homework and homework help.

9. Is represented in local schools' planning efforts.