

# Network Alignment: The Five



# RELATIONSHIPS

# RELEVANCE

# RESPONSIVENESS

# RIGOR

# RESULTS

### **STAFF**

Interaction between formal educators and out-of-school program (OST) staff

Formal educators teach in the OST program bringing their education expertise to the program while working with other OST staff

#### **STUDENTS**

OST programming builds supportive relationships with students and supports social/emotional learning

Youth build strong rapport with each other in informal environments

Research shows participation in OST programs decreases behavioral issues

Programs often include work on conflict resolution, team-building skills, and diversity issues

#### **FAMILIES**

OST programming acts as a bridge to engaging families in student learning in the regular school day.

Shared decision-making opportunities to strengthen family involvement

#### CURRICULUM

OST programs include experiences in core subjects, financial literacy, the arts, civic engagement, community service, and service learning

STEM experiences are a popular inclusion in many programs

Experiences connect to real world experiences, especially those of interest to youth attending

#### **EXAMPLES:**

Youth in Government
School gardens
NPASS curriculum with wiring a
house, balloon-powered cars,
cake chemistry, heating an oven,
or trebuchets
Robotics
AfterSchool Math Plus
AfterSchool Science Plus
4-H aerospace
Bully prevention
Career education
Citizenship
Entrepreneurship

#### INSTRUCTION

Supports Individual Plans of Study

#### **LEADERSHIP**

Includes youth voice

Focuses on choice

**Expands youth interests** 

Experiences built on principles of positive youth development

Work based upon developmental ages and stages of children and youth

#### **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

OST programming supports Kindergarten Readiness

#### DISTRICT CLIMATE

OST programming supports the "It takes a village" philosophy as staff attempts to extend formal education learning

Tutoring and homework help assist in keeping youth current with assignments

#### **NUTRITION & WELLNESS**

Health & wellness programs

Nutrition education

Regular physical activity

Focus on HEPA Standards

#### **CAREER & TEHNICAL ED**

OST build awareness of and interest in careers
Expands career readiness by developing youth workforce skills (soft, essential, and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills). Examples include collaboration, mindset, self-regulation, and critical thinking.

Opportunities for job shadowing, internships, field trips

Business & industry mentors

Collaboration with community organizations

#### PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Regular opportunities for OST conferences, specialized training, and individualized coaching and technical assistance

Focus on promising and evidenced-based practices

21<sup>st</sup> CCLC programs and other similar programs strengthened by site visits, coaching, technical assistance, and external assessors

# ACHIEVEMENT, GROWTH, GAP, OTHER MEASURES

#### Research on OST:

Students in quality afterschool programs improve their school attendance and have higher graduate rates.

Consistent participation in high-quality afterschool programs can help eliminate the achievement gap (Vandell, 2013)

- When afterschool participation is highly consistent, there is no gap in low-income and highincome children's math achievement at grade 5
- The more consistent the afterschool participation, the narrower the gap in math achievement
- The more rarely students participate in afterschool activities, the wider the achievement gap

By 6<sup>th</sup> grade, middle class kids have spent 4,000+ more hours in afterschool & summer learning opportunities than lowincome students. Parent interaction and relationship-building through

RELATIONSHIPS

Regular communications with parents/ families occurs during drop-off and/or pick-up from programs

#### COMMUNITY

parent nights

OST programming may include service-based community projects (community service, project-based learning, and service learning)

Community members serve as mentors in programs

Regular connections with community organizations

Regular engagement with community members who serve as speakers, mentors, in-kind and financial contributions

EXAMPLES: School gardens

Enhances and extends regular classroom instruction

RELEVANCE

Homework help and tutoring provide individualization of assistance and help youth keep up with workloads

Blended programming

**Enrichment activities** 

Complex problem-solving opportunities

#### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Supports Individual Plans of Study

Extends experiences through hands-on activities

Youth voice and self-directed choice

Broaden horizons and relevant knowledge

Learning comes to life

Community business volunteers bring real world exposure

#### **TECHNOLOGY**

Use of iPads, Kindles, computers, and other devices for projects

Opportunities to expand technology experiences through instruction such as coding

Afterschool and summer meals program

RESPONSIVENESS

Trauma-informed care and adverse childhood experiences awareness

# **RESOURCES** (examples)

Statewide
Kansas Enrichment Network

RIGOR

#### National

- Afterschool Alliance
- National Summer Learning Association
- Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality
- STEMeducators
- Active Science Learning
- Harvard's Partnerships in Education & Resilience
- Texas Tech University's Institute for Measurement, Methodology, Analysis & Policy

#### DATA

System, program, and youth level assessments

Kansas Afterschool Guidelines and Self-Assessment promotes continuous improvement

Assessment of youth outcomes through:

**Engagement surveys** 

Interest surveys

Parent/staff surveys

Attendance and retention

STEM Dimensions of Success Observation Tool Afterschool building blocks according to parents:

**RESULTS** 

- 88% say kids develop social skills
- 78% say kids improve their behavior at school
- 82% say kids get excited about learning
- 82% say kids get help with homework
- 78% say kids gain skills in science, math, technology, or engineering
- 77% say kids gain workforce skills like teamwork, leadership, and critical thinking

Expanded learning opportunities outcomes and school success for older youth (Harvard Family Research Project, 2011)

- Higher rates of school attendance and lower dropout rates
- Improved attitudes toward school
- Stronger connections to adults and peers
- Improved health and ability to make healthy choices
- More opportunities to learn about and choose college and career options

For more information, contact the Kansas Enrichment Network