

We all want North Dakota's young people to thrive. Effective family engagement is grounded in partnership and shared responsibility. Out-of-School Time Programs (before & after school, summer) can be a key partner in boosting student achievement, building a positive school culture, and providing young people with a stronger sense of community.

ND QUALITY STANDARDS FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME PROGRAMS

Each of the 4 Quality Domains (Health & Safety, Relationships & Interactions, Youth-Centered Program Design, Leadership & Management) include indicators to support family engagement. Those indicators are outlined below within the six types of parent involvement, a framework developed by Dr. Joyce Epstein to assist educators in developing effective family engagement. Visit www.ndafterschoolnetwork.com/family-engagement-in-afterschool/ for more information.

PARENTING



Relationships & Interactions

RI19: We welcome families' involvement with program events.

RI20: We are intentional about connecting youth, families, and staff to resources in our community that may benefit them.

COMMUNICATING



Health & Safety

HS11: We have clear procedures in place for reporting suspected abuse or neglect.

HS12: We have a clear, written visitor policy. We have clear, written policies on how youth, staff, guardians, and visitors enter & exit the program facilities.

HS13: We have procedures in place to ensure youth leave the program only with authorized adults. Our staff know what to do if an unauthorized person tries to remove a youth from the program.

HS17: If families are required to provide snacks, we have clear, written guidelines about what is permitted.

Relationships & Interactions

RI2: We recognize parents or other adult caregivers, and acknowledge them by name.

RI4: Interactions between students, staff, and families, and amongst staff are affirming & supportive. That includes using positive language & avoiding sarcasm.

RI15: We recognize the importance of meaningful, ongoing engagement with families in our program as well as the larger community.

COMMUNICATING, CONT.



Relationships & Interactions, cont.

RI16: We have ongoing, collaborative, and meaningful relationships with families, schools, and other community partners & stakeholders.

RI17: We provide program information to families on a regular basis.

RI18: It's easy for families to provide feedback & communicate with us, and we encourage them to do so.

RI19: We welcome families' involvement in programs & events.

RI20: We are intentional about connecting youth, families, and staff to resources in our community that may benefit them.

Youth-Centered Program Design

PD8: Our program is equitable. All are warmly welcomed, regardless of ability, cultural background, gender identity, race, ethnicity, or income.

PD16: We regularly connect with schools & families to make sure our program offerings align with and respond to other aspects of students' lives.

PD19: We cultivate partnerships & mutually-beneficial collaborations with colleges, employers, and other professionals in our community to help youth envision themselves in a wide variety of potential career pathways.

Leadership & Management

LM6: We regularly share information about our goals & outcomes to key stakeholders, including staff, youth, families, schools, and the broader community.

LM8: We proactively collect, review, and respond to feedback from youth, families, staff, and other stakeholders.

LM20: Staff & families are aware of our program's policies and are reminded of them on a regular basis.

LM21: We have a program handbook that is easily available. It is shared with families at the time of enrollment & annually.

VOLUNTEERING



Health & Safety

HS12: We have a clear, written visitor policy. We have clear, written guidelines on how youth, staff, guardians, and visitors enter & exit the program facilities.

Relationships & Interactions

RI19: We welcome families' involvement with program events.

RI20: We are intentional about connecting youth, families, and staff to resources in our community that may benefit them.

VOLUNTEERING, CONT.



Youth-Centered Program Design

PD8: Our program is equitable. All are warmly welcomed, regardless of ability, cultural background, gender identity, race, ethnicity, or income.

PD9: Our program is culturally responsive. Our activities reflect, incorporate, and value the cultures of the youth we serve.

PD16: We regularly connect with schools & families to make sure our program offerings align with and respond to other aspects of students' lives.

PD19: We cultivate partnerships & mutually-beneficial collaborations with colleges, employers, and other professionals in our community to help youth envision themselves in a wide variety of potential career pathways.

Leadership & Management

LM5: We seek and nurture mutually beneficial community partnerships.

LEARNING AT HOME



Relationships & Interactions

RI17: We provide information to families on a regular basis.

RI19: We welcome families' involvement with program events.

RI20: We are intentional about connecting youth, families, and staff to resources in our community that may benefit them.

Youth-Centered Program Design

PD9: Our program is culturally responsive. Our activities reflect, incorporate, and value the cultures of the youth we serve.

DECISION-MAKING



Relationships & Interactions

RI15: We recognize the importance of meaningful, ongoing engagement with families in our program as well as the larger community.

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RI17: We provide information to families on a regular basis.

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DECISION-MAKING, CONT.



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Leadership & Management

LM5: We seek and nurture mutually beneficial community partnerships.

LM8: We proactively collect, review, and respond to feedback from youth, families, and other stakeholders.

COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY



Relationships & Interactions

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Leadership & Management

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