

## **Exceeding Afterschool Programming Requirements**

### **Stronger Afterschool Programs are More Sustainable**

The stronger and more developed your afterschool programming, the greater your impact will be on your children and your community. The basic enrichment requirements discussed in [About AMP](#) constitute the bare minimum requirements. Programs that exceed the minimum standards tend to be more sustainable long term.

Remember, you're not alone in your community, and there are ways to improve your programming and increase your sustainability over the long term. AMP can be a way to begin this process by building community relationships.

It's easier to gain capacity from those community connections vital to your program's long-term sustainability if you have an idea of where you want to go programmatically.

### **Suggested Actions to Exceed Requirements**

Suggested actions to make your afterschool programming stronger and more sustainable are:

- Respond to the needs and interests of youth
- Serve a hot meal if possible
- Include a mix of youth, not just youth who are considered "at-risk"
- Involve youth in planning and running the program so that they serve as a resource to their peers and their community
- Promote positive development and resilience of youth by enhancing their competence and sense of autonomy and purpose
- Develop challenging activities that promote the development of social and personal skills, maintaining high expectations of youth
- Teach the skills needed for success
- Maintain an encouraging, cooperative, supportive, but structured environment that emphasizes participation and collaboration rather than competition
- Create a program that fits the interests, values and norms of students from diverse cultures
- If you don't have one already, create a system of program evaluation

### **Good Online Resources For Strengthening Programming**

[The National Center for Quality Afterschool](#) has an excellent resource entitled [A Resource For Planning and Operating Afterschool Programs](#).

[The National Dropout Prevention Center/Network](#) has a resource entitled a [Critical Hours: Afterschool Programs and Educational Success](#). The [Afterschool Alliance](#) has some wonderful research available.