

## What's New in Research February 2010

**The Report:** "Practices to *Foster* in Out-of-School Time Programs"

**Where It's From:** Child Trends Research-to-Results Brief, January 2010

**The Findings:** This research brief summarizes findings about best practices in quality out-of-school time programs. These evidence-based practices are key to effecting positive changes in youth that programs serve.

**Some Specifics:**

- The number one practice to foster is "positive and sustained relationships with caring adults"
- Another interesting practice to foster is "a program environment that has staff 'buy in' for data and evaluation"

**The Full Report is Available At:** [http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2010\\_01\\_28\\_RB\\_Practices2Foster.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2010_01_28_RB_Practices2Foster.pdf)

**The Report:** "Practices to *Avoid* in Out-of-School Time Programs"

**Where It's From:** Child Trends Research-to-Results Brief, January 2010

**The Findings:** This research brief summarizes findings about detrimental practices that are, unfortunately, found in out-of-school time programs.

**Some Specifics:**

- One point this brief makes is to "avoid or reduce staff turnover," so that strong, caring relationships between youth and adults can be formed

**The Full Report is Available At:** [http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2010\\_01\\_28\\_RB\\_Practices2Avoid.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2010_01_28_RB_Practices2Avoid.pdf)

**The Report:** "This School Works for Me: Creative Choices to Boost Achievement," A Guide for America's School Leaders

**Where It's From:** Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**The Findings:** This guide is part of a series of guides based on high school reform projects funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. It is an overview of how districts need to approach reforming high schools to increase both graduation rates and college readiness.

**Some Specifics:**

- Having a portfolio of schools, including small schools and schools with specific themes, has been effective – if there is a focus on quality and high standards for all of the options
- There are many early indicators that a student will drop out, including attendance, eighth and ninth grade test scores and grades, and credit attainment
- Mentoring programs, summer transition programs, and after-school programs have all been found to help students stay on track and/or recover from falling off track

**This Guide is Available at:** <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/united-states/Documents/school-works-for-me-leadership-guide.pdf>

**More Information About the Project and the Other Guides are Available at:** <http://www.gatesfoundation.org/united-states/Pages/school-works-for-me.aspx>