

What's New in Research

September 2009

The Report: "Making the Case: At 2009 Fact Sheet on Children and Youth in Out-of-School Time"

Where It's From: National Institute on Out-of-School Time at the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College

The Findings: After-school programs have a variety of positive effects on children and youth, especially those who are most at risk. Unfortunately, access to quality after-school programs remains a challenge for some youth. Increased funding, increased pay for youth workers, and other changes can help improve both the quantity and quality of programming available.

Some Specifics:

- There are nearly 74 million children and youth between the ages of zero and seventeen in the United States
- The majority of after-school programs are at or beyond capacity, due to demand for their services

The Full Report Is Available At: <http://www.niost.org/pdf/factsheet2009.pdf>

The Report: "Afterschool: Providing a Successful Route to Credit Attainment and Recovery"

Where It's From: Afterschool Alliance Issue Brief, August 2009

The Findings: After-school programs can be an ideal place for older youth to participate in credit recovery and attainment programs. Many experts believe that after-school credit recovery and attainment can better engage students and personalize learning.

Some Specifics:

- Many traditional credit recovery and attainment programs fail to provide students with real world applications of what they are learning, preventing full engagement.
- Successful programs are often tied to job skills and/or work experience.

The Full Report Is Available At:

http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/issue_39_CreditAttainment.cfm

The Report: "Raising the Bar: Quality Improvement Systems for Youth Programs"

Where It's From: The Forum for Youth Investment Out-of-School Time Policy Commentary, August 2009

The Findings: After-school programs need to be high quality in order for youth to benefit. A variety of quality observation and assessment instruments exist, to help programs understand quality, and what they can do to improve. (One of the highlighted instruments is the Youth Program Quality Assessment – TASI started using this instrument last year.)

Some Specifics:

- Quality observation and improvement need to focus on the point of service – the interactions between youth and adults in a program
- Continuous improvement matters

The Full Report Is Available At: <http://www.forumforyouthinvestment.org/content/out-school-time-policy-commentary-15-raising-bar>