



New York State Afterschool Program Accreditation System Frequently Asked Questions

What are the principles that guide the development of the model?

- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be rooted in a set of accreditation standards that reflects the collective wisdom of the field.** Representing a higher tier of quality than the New York State School-Age Child Care Regulations, our accreditation standards will build on the collective knowledge of the field and include research-proven, innovative and promising practices in afterschool programming.
- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be responsive to the afterschool landscape in New York State.** The accreditation standards are aligned with other tools and frameworks used in the state, therefore allowing programs to utilize existing self-assessment processes (i.e. NYSAN QSA Tool, YPQA, SACERS, etc.) if they so choose.
- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be recognized by the child care regulatory system of the state.** AfterSchool Works! New York has been invited to serve on the state's quality rating and improvement system (QUALITYstarsNY) design team to ensure the rating system's school-age standards integrate the accreditation standards.
- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be accessible to all afterschool programs.** The design team is working to ensure that the accreditation process is streamlined and easy to navigate, while remaining rigorous and relevant.
- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model must be affordable.** It is anticipated that the accreditation price points will be between \$1,400 - \$1,800 (per the size and scope of the program) with a customized accreditation package for multi site organizations and / or programs serving 250 participants or more.
- **The New York State Afterschool Accreditation model will be tested prior to a full, statewide implementation.** A field test involving a diverse set of twelve to fifteen programs will be initiated in the fall of 2009.

Why develop a state model for accreditation?

In an effort to provide afterschool providers in New York State with a viable and affordable option for accreditation, AfterSchool Works! New York has taken the lead in developing a New York State Afterschool Program Accreditation model. An active workgroup comprised of direct service practitioners, program directors, trainers, evaluation specialists, policy experts and agency leaders has been established to inform the design and implementation of the model.

How does this work intersect with the national accreditation system?

AfterSchool Works! New York is actively engaged in conversations with the Council on Accreditation, the agency responsible for administering the national system, around ways to support the respective models and collectively promote the value of accreditation to the field. Providers in New York State will be at a **greater advantage** than their peers in other states in that they will have multiple pathways to accreditation and can determine which model will best meet their needs.

Who is eligible to participate in the field test?

All programs that serve school-age children (ages 5 to 12) in New York State are eligible to participate in the field test (the model will be expanded in the future to include programs that serve older youth). This includes both registered and legally exempt programs; private and public school age child care programs, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Advantage After-School Programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA's, 4-H Clubs, Parks and Recreation Departments and programs in public housing. Interested programs will be invited to submit a field test application (available August 17th) to be reviewed by the New York State Accreditation panel in an effort to ensure a diverse sampling of programs. Programs will be notified on or before September 4, 2009 if they have been accepted into the field test.

Will there be a fee reduction for programs participating in the field test?

Yes. Programs selected to participate in the field test will receive a 20% discount on the accreditation costs in recognition of the fact that they will be asked to contribute to the field test evaluation.

How long will accreditation remain in effect?

If awarded, accreditation will remain in effect for three years, pending completion of an annual activity report. An abbreviated accreditation renewal process is available to interested programs beyond the three-year accreditation period.

What is the timeline for the field test?

1. Application for field test: August 2009, with notification on or before September 4, 2009
2. Launch web based orientation: October 2009
3. Make application and self-study materials available: October 2009
4. Programs submit completed application and self-study materials: February 2010
5. Perform accreditation endorsement visits: March – May 2010
6. Evaluate process and make necessary revisions: May – August 2010
7. Launch statewide: Fall 2010

How can I become involved in the process?

Your participation in the process is welcomed. Here are some ways to get involved!

- ✓ Encourage programs that you work with to apply to be part of the field test
- ✓ Become an accreditation coach
- ✓ Become an accreditation endorser
- ✓ Help get the word out and promote the value of accreditation

Please contact AfterSchool Works! New York at 518.694.0660 or visit us online at www.afterschoolworksny.org for more information.