

Additional information about the PQA and Leading Indicators

The Program Quality Assessments (PQAs) and Leading Indicators framework come from the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality and provide youth serving programs with a common language and instruments for measuring program quality.

PQAs

The PQA instruments look at quality from the point of service perspective and capture the environment, interactions, and engagement experienced by the youth in the program. The tool is on a 5 point scale and includes four main areas shown in the pyramid. More information about the PQA instruments can be found at www.cypq.org. To review a copy of the PQA assessment visit: <http://www.cypq.org/downloadpqa>



The Weikart Center conducted a study to document the relationship between PQA scores and Youth Outcomes. Programs that scored above 3.9 had strong correlations to positive youth outcomes. Programs that scored between 2.9 and 3.8 had some positive youth outcomes, but programs scoring below 2.9 had very few positive youth outcomes. Afterschool programs in Missouri strive to score at least 2.9 on the PQA tools and can positively affect youth in their programs by working on the environment, peer interactions, and youth engagement.

Leading Indicators

Through a series of surveys that are administered annually, afterschool programs receive feedback on a variety of program quality indicators. These indicators can help programs to improve in the areas of Organizational Context, Instructional Context, and External Relationships. For more information about the Leading Indicators, visit http://www.cypq.org/sites/cypq.org/files/Leading_Indicators_4.pdf.

Context	Indicator	Data Source
Organizational Context	Staffing Model	Site Coordinator Staff Survey
	Continuous Improvement	Staff Survey
	Youth Governance	Site Coordinator Survey
	Enrollment Policy	Site Coordinator Survey
Instructional Context	Academic Press	Staff Survey Youth Survey
	Engaging Instruction	Youth Survey Staff Survey Youth PQA*
External Relationships	System Norms	Site Coordinator Survey
	Family Engagement	Parent Survey
	School Alignment	Site Coordinator Staff Survey
Youth Characteristics	Community Resources	Site Coordinator Survey
	Socio-emotional Development	Youth Survey
	Academic Efficacy - Grades 4-12	Youth Survey
Family Satisfaction	Academic Efficacy	Parent Survey
	Family Satisfaction	Parent Survey

* The Youth Program Quality Assessment (PQA) is a validated instrument designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs. For more information on the tool, visit www.cypq.org.

21st CCLC and SAC Grant Applicants

Programs that are awarded a 21st CCLC or SAC grant will receive additional information on the PQA and annual Afterschool Survey used for the Leading Indicators once awarded. Staff at the Missouri AfterSchool Network and 4-H Center for Youth Development are available to answer questions for grantees about these tools. Please contact us at Missouri AfterSchool Network – 573-884-2936 or 4-H Center for Youth Development – 573-882-4332.