



How did you engage stakeholders in the process of creating statewide quality standards?

The Illinois Afterschool Quality Standards were developed through a two-year-long process that involved key stakeholders from seven sectors—afterschool, child care, philanthropy, education, research, mental health, and state agencies—with a vested interest in the afterschool field in Illinois.

The stakeholders came together to develop the standards in three phases: writing, review, and roadshow.



What advice do you have for other states before they start to develop or implement their own quality standards?

Have a long-term vision because it will affect your network. Evaluate each step of the process. Seek out where funders are excited to invest and who else is interested in investing in quality standards and afterschool.



What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?

The time delay in getting the standards out definitely caused confusion in the field, with providers not knowing the status of the project or how to use the standards. We also have tried hard to explain that our standards are aspirational and evaluative. Our trainings have helped to convey the difference.



What successes are you most proud of?

We are really excited about how some of our resources turned out, including our resource guide, reflection and planning guide, and training curriculum.



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ACT Now Coalition

Please share your thoughts with us via e-mail at SANSupport@air.org. We look forward to hearing from you.



Who did you work with to create your quality standards?

- After School Matters
- America SCORES
- American Institutes for Research
- Chaddock
- Chicago Lights
- Chicago Pre-College Science and Engineering Program
- Chicago Public Schools
- Chicago Youth Centers
- Children's Home + Aid
- Christopher House
- Columbia College Chicago
- Communities in Schools of Chicago
- Erie Neighborhood House
- Federation for Community Schools
- Forefront
- Gary Comer Youth Center
- High Jump
- Illinois Action for Children
- Illinois AfterSchool Network
- Illinois Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
- Illinois Collaboration on Youth
- Illinois Department of Human Services
- Illinois Network of Child Care Resources and Referral Agencies
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Illinois YMCA
- Loyola University Chicago
- MENTOR Illinois
- Northern Illinois University
- Outreach Community Ministries
- Reaching for Kids and Youth of Massac County
- Regional Office of Education 47
- RYE Consulting
- SGA Youth & Family Services
- Tanglewood Research
- Tazewell County Health Department
- The Field Museum
- Thrive Chicago
- United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
- Urbana School District 116
- YMCA of Metro Chicago
- Youth Guidance
- Youtopia