

NYSAN is pleased to present the 2nd Edition of the QSA Tool. The 2nd Edition has been enhanced with new quality indicators and streamlined to better support afterschool programs in conducting self-assessments and improving program quality. Updated PDF versions of the QSA Tool and User's Guide can be found at www.nysan.org, or a web-based version can be found at www.nysan.org/usersguide. You may continue to use this hard copy version, but please note the significant differences in the 2nd Edition below:

#1 ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE – New indicators!

Actively recruits and welcomes youth with disabilities.

Promotes psychological and emotional safety through a culture of support, inclusion, and mutual respect.

#3 RELATIONSHIPS – New indicators!

Builds a sense of community among participants.

Is structured to create close, sustained relationships between individual participants and caring adults.

#4 STAFFING / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – New indicators!

Where appropriate, develops and supports staff to provide educational opportunities for and work with adult learners.

Fosters understanding and appreciation for established program quality standards, evaluation, and program improvement strategies among staff.

EDITED: 8. Assesses professional development needs of staff and provides appropriate supports such as training, coaching, mentoring, and peer learning.

#5 PROGRAMMING / ACTIVITIES – New indicators!

Provides reasonable accommodations and special materials as necessary for youth with disabilities during the program and at special events.

Employs a variety of grouping strategies, for both structured and unstructured activities, including individual, small group, and large group.

Provides regular opportunities to be outdoors.

Provides supports as children and youth transition across age groups and school grades, and school day to afterschool.

Offers activities that develop global competencies in youth, build 21st century skills (e.g. digital literacy, cross-cultural skills, innovative thinking, etc.), and prepare them for college, career, and citizenship.

#6 LINKAGES BETWEEN DAY & AFTER SCHOOL

EDITED: 9. Is represented in local schools' planning efforts.

#7 YOUTH PARTICIPATION / ENGAGEMENT – New indicators!

Allows participants to be meaningfully involved in program planning, implementation, data collection, and evaluation.

#8 PARENT / FAMILY / COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS – New indicators!

Makes intentional connections with early care and education programs and stakeholders in the community.

#10 MEASURING OUTCOMES / EVALUATION

EDITED: 3. Uses objective data to measure progress toward outcomes as defined by programs and individual participants.

EDITED: 5. Makes summaries of evaluations and/or other collected data available to the general public.