BOOST
GREENVILLE

As a strategic initiative of United Way of Greenville County, BOOST Greenville's mission is to ensure that all children benefit from high-quality expanded learning programs. Our vision is a community where every child has abundant opportunities to learn, grow and build relationships that will improve their lifelong love for learning and chances for success.

In Greenville County, 1 in 4 children lives in poverty and 1 in 5 will not graduate from high school. An estimated 18% (133,788) of children in South Carolina are home alone after school. National research shows that high-quality afterschool and summer programs help students perform better in school, graduate and gain the social-emotional skills needed to achieve long-term success. BOOST recognizes that the opportunity gap must be addressed to bridge the achievement gap.

To do this, BOOST Greenville works to improve program quality, increase opportunities for underserved youth, and raise awareness and advocate for policies that support more and better afterschool and summer learning programs for K-12 youth.

BOOST's Quality Initiative is intended to help programs more effectively meet the needs of the children they serve by guiding staff members through a continuous process of quality improvement using an evidenced-based assessment tool. By providing personalized coaching, professional development and a plethora of resources and best practices, BOOST helps programs achieve better outcomes for youth and families.

BOOST Continuous Program Quality Initiative

The Program Quality Initiative is a continuous process which helps organizations to deliver the highest quality programming to children through the use of best-practice standards, coaching from a Boost Quality Advisor, training, curriculum, volunteers and other resources. By meeting certain criteria, program sites can earn a BOOST Certificate of Quality to recognize their achievements.

In essence, the Quality Initiative is a cyclical process of assessment, goal setting, accountability, coaching, and technical assistance. Depending on the performance level of a site per the AQuA observations, a site may require more or less support. Regardless of their stage in the process, all participating sites have access to issue-focused evaluative and collaborative technical assistance.

How We Do It: An Integrated Approach to Achieving High Quality

Assessment – safety audits, AQuA tool

Goal setting- program improvement plan

Training and Professional Development- personalized sessions, standard workshops, peer mentoring and networking

Coaching- one-on-one coaching during program hours, modeling best practices, onsite technical assistance

Resources- curriculum, outcome measurements & evaluations, research to support quality achievement, best practices to close performance gap

How We Define Quality: 11 Essential Elements

Research indicates that only high-quality expanded learning programs create positive student outcomes. BOOST partner organizations are encouraged to pursue excellence in all areas of operations and programming. The BOOST Program Quality Initiative, including training workshops and our Afterschool Quality Advancement (AQuA) tool, is based on nationally accepted, research-based best practices. The AQuA Tool is based on the work of the New York State Afterschool Network (NYSAN), the Dallas Afterschool Network (DASN) and their partners. The tool was constructed from the experience, knowledge and research of practitioners and policymakers across the country. The components within the tool have been proven to align with quality (as shown by positive results for youth), and are appropriate measures for programs serving school-aged youth.

We measure quality using indicators categorized in 11 elements:

Environment & Climate	**Relationships**
Safe, healthy & nurturing environment	**Positive relationships and interactions among staff, participants, families & communities**
• Stimulating, welcoming and supportive setting	
• Provides adequate security and appropriate adult supervision	• Interacts with families in a respectful, welcoming way
• Culture of support, inclusion and mutual respect	• Builds a sense of community among participants
Youth Participation and Engagement	**Parent, Family & Community Partnerships**
Student input valued in program planning & development	**Strong relationships established to achieve program goals**
• Students encouraged to express ideas, concerns and opinions	• Involves families in decision making and planning
• Promotes active and engaged participation	• Communicates with parents concerning well-being of child
• Fosters student ownership of program	• Builds relationships with other community partners to expand and enhance program
Administration & Organization	**Programming & Activities**
Well-developed systems & sound fiscal management	**Supports physical, social & cognitive growth of all participants**
• Policies and procedures handbook created/utilized	• Features age and skill level appropriate programming
• Program and activity schedule kept current/accurate	• Offers project based, experiential activities
• Maximizes community resources to best meet the needs of participants and families	• Provides enrichment opportunities in the arts, technology, recreation or health

Staffing & Professional Development **Recruits, hires & develops diverse staff** • Ongoing staff development • Positive working conditions • Develops and supports staff to meet program participants' needs	**Linkages to School Day** **Activities are aligned with & enrich school curriculum** • Programming integrates and complements school day activities • Maintains communication with school personnel • Utilizes school resources when possible
Measuring Outcomes & Evaluation **Collects data and utilizes outcomes for program** **improvement** • Measurable program goals	**Program Sustainability & Growth** **Clear mission & vision that supports continued growth** • Employs staff who embrace program's goals • Develops long-term plan for sustainability
Nutrition and Physical Activity **Offers & promotes healthy eating and exercise habits** • Nutritious food and drink provided for meals or snacks • Educates participants and families on healthy practices • Programming includes physical activity period	

How We Measure Quality

The AQuA tool is a web-based program assessment that contains best practices and is also equipped with examples indicating what the performance of each one of the elements looks like. It is important to note that the AQuA tool is utilized for guided self-assessment as well as external assessment, which helps providers confirm which practices are effective and identify areas for growth. In addition, the scores and reports generated from the assessments help providers evaluate and demonstrate program effectiveness, and create and implement action plans around any practices in need of improvement.

For more information, please contact us: 864-467-2606 or info@boostgreenville.org.