Quality Standards for Expanded Learning Programs

The standards should be considered in the context of the five <u>Learning in After School and Summer Principles</u>[3] which clearly communicate how expanded learning programs contribute to children's learning.

Point-of-Service Quality Standards

Safe and supportive environment

The program provides a safe and nurturing environment that supports the developmental, social-emotional and physical needs of all students. Page 7

Active and engaged learning

Program design and activities reflect active, meaningful and engaging learning methods that promote collaboration and expand student horizons. Page 8

Skill building

The program maintains high expectations for all students, intentionally links program goals and curricula with 21st-century skills and provides activities to help students achieve mastery. Page 9

Youth voice and leadership

The program provides and supports intentional opportunities for students to play a meaningful role in program design and implementation, and provides ongoing access to authentic leadership roles. Page 10

Healthy choices and behaviors

The program promotes student well-being through opportunities to learn about and practice balanced nutrition, physical activity and other healthy choices in an environment that supports a healthy life style. Page 11

Diversity, access and equity

The program creates an environment in which students experience values that embrace diversity and equity regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, income level, national origin, physical ability, sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression. Page 12

Programmatic Quality Standards

Quality staff

The program recruits and retains high quality staff and volunteers who are focused on creating a positive learning environment, and provides ongoing professional development based on assessed staff needs. Page 13

Clear vision, mission and purpose

The program has a clearly defined vision, mission, goals, and measurable outcomes that reflect broad stakeholder input and drive program design, implementation and improvement. Page 14

Collaborative partnerships

The program intentionally builds and supports collaborative relationships among internal and external stakeholders, including families, schools and community, to achieve program goals. Page 15

Continuous quality improvement

The program uses data from multiple sources to assess its strengths and weaknesses in order to continuously improve program design, outcomes and impact. Page 16

Program management

The program has sound fiscal and administrative practices supported by well-defined and documented policies and procedures that meet grant requirements. Page 17

Sustainability

The program builds enduring partnerships with the community and secures commitments for in-kind and monetary contributions. Page 18