



The Arkansas Out of School Network (AOSN)

Mission

The mission of the Arkansas Out of School Network is to create safe, healthy and enriching experiences for Arkansas youth during out of school times. The Arkansas Out of School Network has an array of partners who have committed staff, resources and technical assistance to establishing and maintaining the network and promoting the statewide expansion and development of after-school programs.

Goal

The goal of the Arkansas Out of School Network is to help strengthen, expand, and sustain Arkansas' school-based and school-linked services to children and youth, ages 5-19, during out of school time.

Recent Key Successes:

- AOSN awarded its second Innovations Project to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR)—University District Education Network (UDEN). The main goal of UALR'S Innovations Project is to engage a broader array of community partners in developing a plan to address the needs of youth residing within the University District. UALR is a recipient of a Promise Neighborhood Grant and has included portions of the of the AOSN Innovations Project work within the Promise Neighborhood planning process.
- Between March and September of 2010 AOSN participated in policy cafes hosted by its lead advocacy partner, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families (AACF). Arkansas Advocates and the Arkansas Kids Count Coalition sponsored seven policy café events featuring round-table discussions on the current progress and future efforts to expand access to quality afterschool and summer programs.
- AOSN staff and partners were members of an expert panel that advised the Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education during the development of the Arkansas Quality Rating Improvement System called **Better Beginnings**. AOSN played a pivotal role in identifying appropriate assessment tools for the school-age component and youth development content.
- The Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education organized a workgroup to develop minimum licensing standards to include Stand Alone Regulations for OST and youth development programs. AOSN and its fiscal sponsor, ASU Childhood Services, served on the committee to provide expertise and resource information.
- The Arkansas Out-of-School Network (AOSN) partnered with the Center for Youth Program Quality (YPQA) to provide training and technical assistance for quality assessment and improvement planning in select afterschool programs across the state. During the 09-10 pilot,

20 program OST sites from Central and Northwest Arkansas and 80 21 CCLC programs statewide participated in the internal and external assessment.

- AOSN hosted the Arkansas Youth Policy Summit in June of 2010 at the Clinton Presidential Center. AOSN convened over 180 key stakeholders to address the following areas impacting youth: Education and the Achievement Gap, Juvenile Justice, Health, and Workforce Development. This was the official launch of the ***"Afterschool is Key"*** public education campaign.
- In October 2010, AOSN and the Arkansas Department of Education worked collaboratively to convene the Student Success Summit. The goal of the summit was to develop a framework for greater collaboration between the school districts and afterschool programs. school district teams and afterschool programs participated, along with, higher education, philanthropy, and government agencies. Each team developed an action plan for their school and community.
- Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, afterschool professionals in Arkansas were exposed to a wide variety of high quality professional development opportunities. These opportunities came about due \$500,000 dollars in enhanced funding of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) administered by the Department of Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. AOSN, ASU Childhood Services, and AOSN partners delivered the training.
- AOSN launched the Arkansas Youth Development Institute (YDI), an online professional development series designed to provide free, easily accessible, quality training on the core knowledge needed when working with youth. The Arkansas YDI is accessible through the AOSN website www.aosn.org and all courses are registered with the **TAPP** Registry System.
- In October of 2010, AOSN and ASU Childhood Services partnered with the Arkansas Department of Education's 21 CCLC Program to conduct the Annual Statewide 21CCLC Afterschool Conference. This joint event drew more than 350 participants for the three day conference and pre-conference.
- AOSN and its partners participated in the Joint Coordinating Committee on Afterschool and Summer Programs. The committee drafted recommendations on how to structure a state funded system of afterschool and summer programs. A draft bill entitled the ***Arkansas Positive Youth Development Act*** was developed in November of 2010 and will be considered during the 2011 session of the Arkansas legislature.

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