

Appendix B

Arkansas Out of School Network: Theory of Change

NETWORK NAME

Arkansas Out-Of-School Network (AOSN)

NETWORK VISION

To strengthen, expand and sustain Arkansas' school-based and school-linked services to children and youth, ages 5-19, during out of school time.

Contextual Factors:Supportive Factors:

- During the past three years the AOSN and its partners have significantly increased public and stakeholder awareness of the positive impacts of quality after school programs.
- The Governor has created a task force on best practices for afterschool programs, is holding the state's second summit on ELOs, and plans to make afterschool expansion a part of his legislative packet in 2009.
- The AOSN has approved major revisions in its organizational structure, the task force is set to make afterschool policy recommendations, a demand study and strategic communications plan have been completed, and a recent widely distributed study on closing the educational achievement gap recommends expansion of afterschool programs in the state.
- The aforementioned developments have laid the groundwork for a successful public education and policy campaign in the state.

Inhibiting Factors:

- The state is currently facing a shortfall in state general revenues collections following many years of significant revenue surpluses.
- Because of strict term limits, one-third of the state House and a sizeable number of the Senate will be newly elected legislators.
- There is no significant or dedicated state funding stream to support afterschool programs across the state.
- There are urgent competing demands for additional state revenues to address mental health reform, access to substance abuse for women and children, juvenile justice reform, expansion of child health care coverage, and increased demands for Pre-K.
- Following multiple years of education reform and significant increases in state funds for education, policy makers and the public may be experiencing "education policy fatigue".