



Frequently Asked Questions

What does Continuous Improvement for School-Age Care (SAC) Programs mean?

Ignite Afterschool, in partnership with the Department of Human Services and the SAC community, created Minnesota's new School-Age Care Accreditation Program. Embedded within and a central component of I-SAC Accreditation is a Continuous Program Improvement (CPI) process ~ using data to make improvements to programming.

SAC sites involved in the program will participate in Community of Practice Coaching Sessions and will be guided through the CPI process and develop Improvement plans based on their data findings.

Who is the target audience for this School-Age Care Accreditation Program?

Any community based organization, non-profit, early learning center, or school district providing services for school-aged children is eligible to participate in this program. School-age care Accreditation is for programs serving children in Kindergarten through 6th grade.

Does an entire organization apply and work towards Accreditation or is it by site?

I-SAC Accreditation is by site.

For SAC programs that have multiple sites, is it recommended to have multiple sites apply?

There is no right or wrong answer here. It depends on the organization and the capacity to take on Accreditation. It can be helpful to have a few, select sites start the Accreditation process, and allow the additional sites to learn from those going through it.

How many sites will be accepted in 2023? Will that ever change?

I-SAC has the capacity to accept 30 sites this year to join the program. Ignite will continue to work with DHS and the SAC community to determine participation interest with the goal of being able to increase capacity to meet the demand.

If our site doesn't participate this year, when is the next opportunity to apply?

Applications will open each year for I-SAC at the beginning of the school year.



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What is the cost?

- CPI Program Fee: \$250
 - Covers coaching sessions
- Accreditation Site Visit Fee: \$2,000
 - \$250 CPI fee is applied to your accreditation site visit
 - Total remaining fee: \$1,750
- A La Carte Fees/Costs
 - PQA (self guided) and access to Scores Reporter; per site - \$200
 - PDX Access - \$99
 - 1 staff training of trainers for 2 building blocks
 - Access for 7 frontline staff. \$10 for each additional staff

Do you have to participate in the Accreditation Program in order to have access to Ignite's Professional Development Exchange (PDX)?

No! PDX is open to all OST programs in the state of Minnesota ~ regardless of their involvement with the I-SAC Accreditation program.

Is there a fee to attend the required coaching sessions/M3 huddles during the three years following accreditation?

Once a site is Accredited, this status lasts for four years before having to go through the process again. The first two years sites participate in coaching sessions with Ignite and there is a cost of \$250/year for this involvement.

In years 3 and 4 of the Accreditation cycle, there is not a fee to Accredited sites as they continue a Continuous Program Improvement cycle on their own and participate in a community based M3 Huddle.

What time and day will the Coaching sessions occur?

Once Community of Practice groups are established, there will be communication and input from SAC programs as to what works best regarding time and date for coaching sessions.

Who are the Coaches?

I-SAC coaches have a wide range of experience and expertise within OST programs, youth development, and SAC programming. Coaches who lead a Community of Practice cohort will not be the person conducting the Accreditation Site Visit.



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What is the value of Accreditation vs. going through the Continuous Improvement/M3 Cycle alone?

There is a variety of additional value to SAC sites in going through the Continuous Program Improvement cycle and continuing with the Accreditation site visit.

When Accredited, a site has the ability to showcase their Accreditation Certificate at their site and share this status with their families and community. Accreditation shows a commitment to high quality practices. Staff can take a sense of pride that they have contributed and will continue to contribute as the site puts intention around continuous improvement.

In addition, sites who reach an Accredited status are eligible to receive a higher CCAP reimbursement.

When/where can we access the Quality Navigator?

The I-SAC Quality Navigator is a public document that can be found on our website:

<https://igniteafterschool.org/i-sac> We welcome SAC sites to take a look at what's inside!