

A Professional Development System for Minnesota's Afterschool Providers

THE AFTERSCHOOL BLUEPRINT

Afterschool can unlock young people's fullest potential!

Youth workers play a key role in the strength of programs and the lives of youth. Youth workers need support to grow their abilities, skills, and knowledge. That's why Minnesota is getting serious about better coordination of Professional Development opportunities for youth workers. When we coordinate, we make the most of an individual partner's expertise and strengths. We make sure that youth workers in every corner of Minnesota have access to high-quality professional development opportunities.

It's simple: an investment in youth workers is an investment in young people. Join us and bring this blueprint to life.



Emotional support from program staff is the most significant factor leading to youth reporting a positive program experience.¹ Training afterschool staff is essential to high-quality programs!

51% of Minnesota's afterschool staff say they do not get the professional development support they need.² Let's improve that!

15% of Minnesota youth are currently enrolled in an afterschool program, and another 20% would participate if a program were available.³ That's a lot of youth we can positively impact!

DEFINING THE SIX BLUEPRINT ELEMENTS



α shared hub: an organization or group that unites PD providers to coordinate and connect afterschool providers with professional development opportunities.



evaluation & improvement: a way to collect data and information that ensures the professional development opportunities being offered make a difference to the people who work in afterschool.



collective funding: working together to identify and sustain funding streams that support the professional development infrastructure.



shared language: afterschool providers share a language for effective program practices, youth worker core knowledge and skills, and steps for continuous improvement.



coordinated access & delivery: organizing professional development to match the right content (e.g. effective practices, core knowledge, CPI) and method (e.g. learning communities, workshops) to the right person (e.g. direct youth work, program managers) in all the right place across the state.



celebrated successes: recognizing the programs and people engaged in professional growth and quality improvement and the communities coordinating to support afterschool programs.

JOIN US!

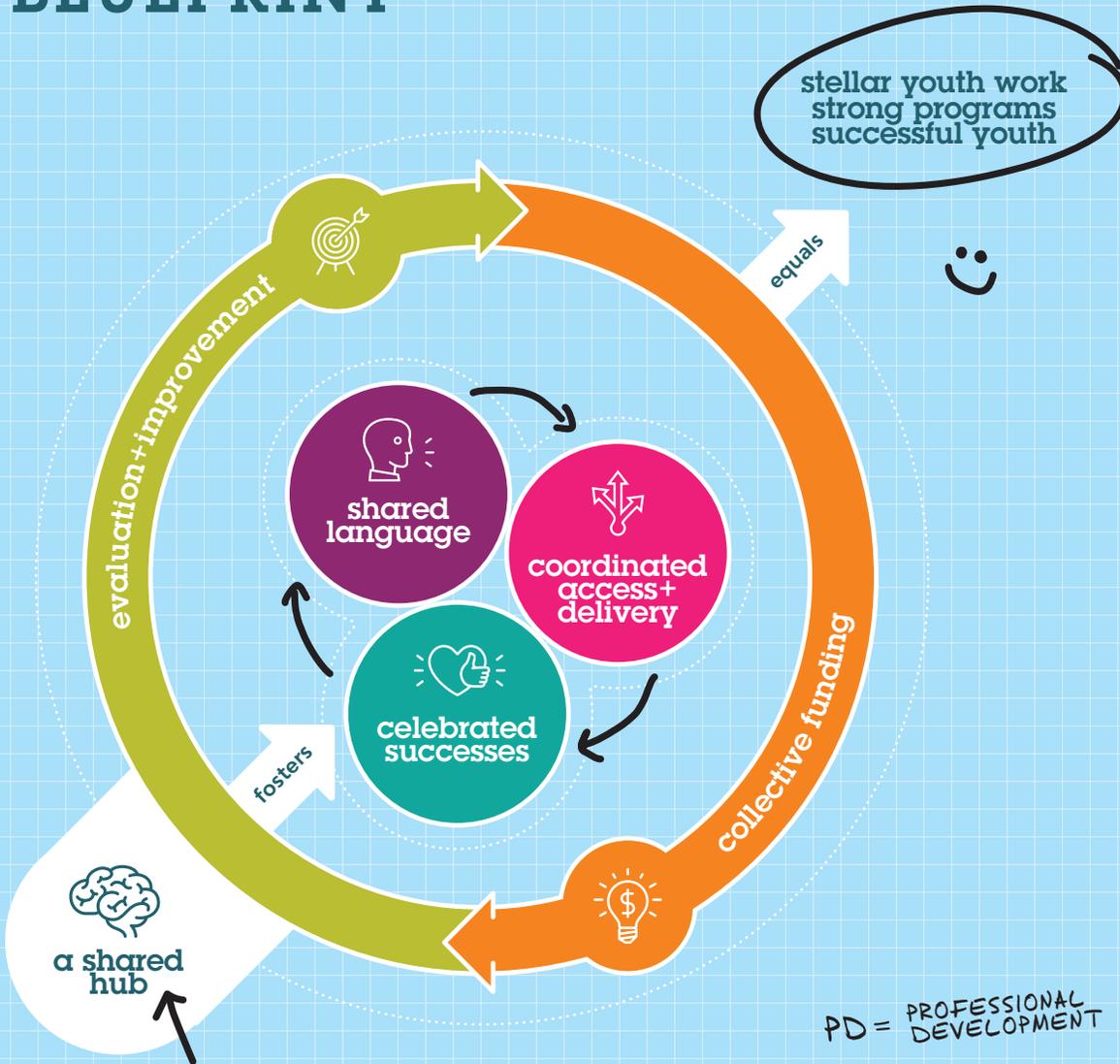
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¹Kataoka, Sabrina and Deborah L. Vandell. "Quality of Afterschool Activities and Relative Change in Adolescent Functioning Over Two Years." Journal of Applied Developmental Science. VOL 17, ISS 3 (2013): 1-12. Print. ²Moore, Deborah. "Survey Report: Professional Development in Afterschool." Ignite Afterschool. (2014). ³"Minnesota After 3 PM Fact Sheet." Afterschool Alliance. (2014). Accessed via: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/documents/AA3PM-2014/MN-AA3PM-2014-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

THE AFTERSCHOOL BLUEPRINT



HOW WE ACT:



a shared hub

- identify gaps in PD content and quality with an eye to equity
- plan collective action steps to fill gaps
- connect people to available PD offerings



evaluation & improvement

- gather data to map needs and strengths of the coordinated PD system
- demonstrate effectiveness and impact of PD
- use data to improve the coordinated PD system



collective funding

- secure diverse streams of revenue
- educate people outside the field about the importance of PD
- advocate for policies that support a strong PD system

HOW IT LOOKS:



shared language

- effective program practices
- youth worker core knowledge and skills
- steps for continuous improvement



coordinated access & delivery

- multiple ways of learning
- PD designed by role
- PD tied to shared language



celebrated successes

- programs focused on effective practices
- youth workers growing skills and knowledge
- communities coordinating support for programs

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