What are the Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development (ASYD) Quality Standards?

A Unified **Vision** *to* **Serve** *Georgia's* **Youth**

Georgia Afterschool & Youth Development
Initiative
A collaboration between GSAN & GUIDE, Inc.

The Georgia ASYD Quality Standards, released in December 2015, are Georgia's first quality standards for afterschool and summer learning programs and provide a framework for programs and professionals to evaluate and continuously improve the quality of their programming. The Georgia ASYD Initiative provides training, coaching, and resources to providers across the state to support their quality improvement journey.

The Anatomy of the ASYD Quality Standards

QUALITY ELEMENTS

9 Georgia's standards are organized into nine categories called "Quality Elements"

- Programming & Youth Development
- Linkages with the School Day
- Environment & Climate
- Relationships
- Health & Well Being
- Staffing & Professional Development
- Organizational Practices
- Evaluation & Outcomes
- Family & Community Partnerships

Each of these nine quality elements includes a series of related **standards** or best practices, as well as **indicators** to help programs understand what successful implementation looks like.
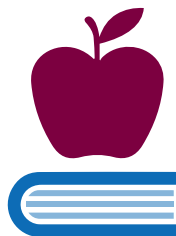
EVIDENCE-BASED, RESEARCH-DRIVEN:

The ASYD Quality Standards are based on research from a variety of fields including **education, child development and psychology, organizational psychology, business management** and **public health**. Each standard aims to encourage positive short-term and long-term outcomes in youth based on best practices found through this research.
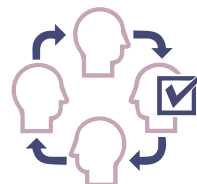
DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR PROGRAMS THAT:

- Serve children and youth between ages **5** and **18**
- Serve youth who attend regularly and over a long period of time
- Are well-established
- Offer youth a range of enriching experiences

SELF-ASSESSMENT, NOT PUNISHMENT:

Programs can utilize this as a tool for quality awareness and improvement, facilitating important conversations and **setting goals among staff**.

A TOOL FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT:

Studies show that programs that use a **continuous quality improvement system** are likely to see improvements in the quality of instruction delivered by staff members and even retention levels of short-term staff.