

West Contra Costa Out of School Time (OST) Quality Standards: Commitment to Providing High Quality Experiences for West County students

1. Active and Engaged Learning

Programming and activities are developmentally appropriate and promote the physical, academic, social, and emotional development of all participants. Programs provide a positive environment that integrates best practices of youth development and support student creativity. Opportunities for play and fun are promoted.

2. Skill Building

The program intentionally provides opportunities for students to build skills that support their success in academic, health, social-emotional, and other key areas of their lives. Academic programming enhances student's school day learning.

3. Safe Environment

Physical and emotional safety is a key foundational element of programs. The program provides a safe and supportive environment that addresses the developmental, physical and emotional needs of diverse participants.

4. Community Responsiveness

The program culture reflects respect and celebrates diversity. The program is accessible and responsive to the needs of the community it serves.

5. Staffing and Professional Development

The program employs and supports the professional growth of highly effective staff and volunteers who are dedicated to creating a positive, developmentally appropriate and supportive learning environment.

6. Leadership and Management

The program displays effective leadership, sound fiscal management, and coherent policies and procedures.

7. Continuous Improvement

The program adopts a systematic approach of assessment, reflection, and action planning to continuously improve the quality of the program.

8. Meaningful Partnerships

The program values collaboration and purposefully builds strong partnerships in order to achieve program goals.