

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center Evaluation Summary (Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis and Hazelwood)

Afterschool programs are an evidence-based strategy for helping students meet challenging academic standards, improve attendance and graduation rates, and develop college and career readiness skills and behaviors. The federally funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program provides competitive grant funding to districts to implement before- and after-school and summer enrichment programs that support and enhance student outcomes. BGC Greater St. Louis received a 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant in (2022). The afterschool program operates (3 SITES) in (1 ELEMENTARY, 1 MIDDLE, and 1 HIGH SCHOOL), serving 157 students (total youth in program attendance from KCC, 5+ days attendance).

Each year, 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grantees undergo an external evaluation process that reviews their progress related to three broad afterschool goals: 1) academic improvement and efficacy, 2) program quality, and 3) youth outcomes. During the 2022-23 school year, each site recorded attendance and grades data, received a Program Quality Assessment (PQA) observation, and completed a series of afterschool surveys with responses from (87) youth, (30) families, (9) program staff, and (4) school administrators. A certified external evaluator met with the program administrator to review data and complete a Guided Reflection Document. Results from the annual external evaluation ensure grant compliance and influence continuous quality improvement efforts including modifying the program curricula and enrichment activities and planning professional development for staff.

### Goal 1: Academic Achievement and Efficacy

Afterschool programs provide a full range of academic support including homework help, tutoring, academic enrichment, and comprehensive integrated units directly tied to the state standards. They provide activities that complement rather than replicate the school day.

Two criteria within Goal 1 were reported as less than satisfactory. Of the three sites, the results are related to Southeast Middle. In reading, for criteria B, **Grades-students with pre-grade in the “need” category**, all sites scored **Less than Satisfactory 26.7%** (21.4% Southeast Middle, 100% Hazelwood BGC, and N/A East High). The goal was that at least 50% of students identified as “need” increase their grades. In math, for criteria B, **Grades-students with pre-grade in the “need” category**, the mean score was **Less than Satisfactory 33.3%** (28.6% Southeast Middle, 100% Hazelwood BGC, and 0% East High). The goal was that at least 50% of students identified as “need” increase their grades. Although the overall rating did not show less than satisfactory, Southeast Middle also did not hit their target for the same criteria in science (47.6% and target 50%). Strategies being used at Hazelwood BGC could be explored with middle school students and working with school staff on strategies to support these targeted students. Additionally, support from tutors was present. Recruiting consistent tutors (i.e., partnering with AmeriCorps or local universities College’s of Education) supporting all sites should be explored.

### Goal 2: Program Quality

Research shows that high-quality afterschool programs help close the achievement gap and reduce the likelihood of youth participating in risk-taking behaviors. The 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grant recipients participate in an ongoing quality improvement process that includes the point-of-service experience of youth, school day linkages, offering a broad array of activities, and family engagement opportunities.

Only one criterion emerged within Goal 2.1 for one site, East High School, as a focus for improvement, and that is related to the Family Program Quality Scale. For criteria D, **Family Program Quality scale**, two sites scored **More than Satisfactory** (88.9% Hazelwood BGC and 87.5% Southeast Middle School), and one site scored **Less than Satisfactory** (50% East High School) The goal was at least 70% of family members indicating a positive response on the Program Quality scale. Survey items on the Family Program Quality scale were related to the past school year, and how true are the following statements for you? (1= Almost never true; 3 = True about half the time; 5 = Almost always true). Two questions were reported as less than 3.0 and should be targeted for program improvement.

- An adult in our family has been personally recruited to participate in and/or lead sessions at the afterschool program
- The afterschool program provides parents with opportunities to have input into program decisions.\* (\*Some questions were only asked in the electronic version of the survey.)

All other criteria within Goal 2 were rated as Satisfactory or higher. Program efforts should continue within these areas to sustain their effectiveness.

### Goal 3: Youth Outcomes

Afterschool program also offer non-academic benefits that support the student's development of life readiness skills including positive school behaviors (e.g., regular attendance), personal and social skills (e.g., time management, team work, critical thinking), and commitment to learning (e.g., initiative, homework completion, study skills).

Attendance continues to be a focused priority for all sites. Hazelwood BGC and the middle school met their 30+ days attendance target, and Hazelwood BGC also met their 60+ days attendance target. However, for all sites, for 3.1 criteria A, **Proposed vs. Actual Attendance**, all sites scored **Less than Satisfactory** (70%). The goal was actual 30+ day attendance of at least 80% of proposed attendance. Focused attention on increasing attendance using strategies should be utilized at the middle school level and the Teen Center for Excellence. For criteria E, **Middle School/Junior High stretch- 45+ days**, all sites scored **Less than Satisfactory** (38.7%). The goal was for at least 50% of youth to attend 45+ days. For criteria F, **High School- 30+ days**, all sites scored **Less than Satisfactory** (29.4%). The goal was at least 30% of youth to attend 30+ days. For criteria G, **High School stretch- 30+ days**, all sites scored **Less than Satisfactory** (29.4%). The goal was for at least 50% of youth to attend 30+ days.

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