



Theory of Change: Participation in high quality out-of-school-time programs results in better educational outcomes for youth.

Program Goal: To improve student learning through increasing knowledge, skills, relationships, and motivation to achieve.

All proposals submitted to the Foundation should adhere to one of the following strategies:

STRATEGY A

Building Skills in Core Academic Subjects

Target Population: Chicago Public Schools students

Components

- Activities connect to and are informed by grade-level benchmarks, standards, and the school-day curriculum, and address students' individual needs
- An adequate number of adults are present to supervise and assist children and youth
- Participants are engaged in fun, safe, creative activities that help them build relationships with each other and adults
- Students are involved consistently over an extended period of time.
- Staff members communicate regularly with parents
- Staff regularly assess the effectiveness of the strategies used and make changes in a timely manner

Evaluation Criteria

- Number of students enrolled and amount of time they participate each day, week, month, and year
- Student retention in the program and in school
- Staff retention
- Evidence that programs support what students learn during the academic day
- Knowledge gains, grade letter gains, gains on standardized tests
- Attitude and motivation towards school work
- Quality of staff/parent communication
- Increase in homework completion

STRATEGY B

College Readiness, Access, and Completion

Target Population: Chicago Public Schools students

Components

- Workshops, test preparation classes, tutoring, and college visits prepare students for success in college
- Staff members advise and counsel students to build their confidence, motivation, and awareness of strengths and weaknesses
- Students learn strategies, such as developing a peer support group once in college, that increase their chances of staying in and completing college
- Parents understand the financial aid process and how to support their children's educational goals

Evaluation Criteria

- Number of students enrolled and amount of time they participate daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly.
- Student retention in the program and in school
- Staff retention
- Parent involvement in student support workshops
- Knowledge gains, increased high school grades and achievement test scores
- Improved attitude and motivation toward college
- Improved critical thinking skills
- High school and college graduation rates
- Number of students applying to, accepted into, attending, and completing college
- Amount, nature and duration of supports for college students