

EVALUATION OF THE TASC AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

Survey of Principals School Year 2002/2003

Dear Principal:

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. As part of the evaluation of the TASC After-School Program, Policy Studies Associates is surveying principals of host schools to learn about the quality and availability of after-school services, the relationship between the TASC After-School Program and the school, and the costs and benefits to the school of hosting the program. This information will help TASC improve the program for students and other stakeholders.

To protect your privacy, **your responses to this survey are confidential**. The evaluation will report aggregate results only. It will not report individual principals' responses.

We appreciate your participation.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS: To answer a question, circle the number to the right that best describes your answer. For example, to answer question #1, if you have one sister, circle the number '2'. Circle only one answer unless otherwise instructed by the question.

1. How many sisters do you have?

- a. None..... 1
- b. One 2
- c. Two..... 3
- d. Three or more 4

2. Below are some statements about different types of food. Please circle a '1' if you strongly agree, '2' if you agree, '3' if you disagree, or '4' if you strongly disagree with each statement.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
a. Chocolate ice cream is better than vanilla ice cream	1	2	3	4
b. I like tea better than coffee	1	2	3	4

1. How long have you been the principal at this school?
 - a. Less than a year 1
 - b. 1-2 years 2
 - c. 3-5 years 3
 - d. More than 5 years 4

2. What is the most important objective of the TASC after-school program in your view?
(Circle one.)
 - a. Facilitate homework completion..... 1
 - b. Provide academic enrichment 2
 - c. Enhance artistic development 3
 - d. Provide sports/recreation opportunities 4
 - e. Enhance social or civic development 5
 - f. Other (Specify) _____ 6

3. For how long has your school had a working partnership with the organization that operates your TASC after-school program?
 - a. I don't know 1
 - b. The relationship formed at the time we applied for TASC funds 2
 - c. The relationship pre-dated the TASC after-school grant by less than a year 3
 - d. The relationship pre-dated the TASC after-school grant by more than a year 4

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements about the relationship between your school and the after-school program sponsored by The After-School Corporation (TASC)?

	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Not sure</i>
a. There is a strong partnership between the after-school program and my school	1	2	3	4	5
b. The after-school program keeps me informed of important decisions and issues	1	2	3	4	5
c. Teachers in my school are willing to collaborate with the after-school program staff	1	2	3	4	5
d. After-school program staff are responsive to my ideas and suggestions	1	2	3	4	5

	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Not sure</i>
e. After-school staff reach out to teachers in the school to identify the needs of students	1	2	3	4	5
f. After-school staff are responsive to the teachers in the school	1	2	3	4	5
g. School staff are encouraged to visit the program	1	2	3	4	5
h. After-school staff follow through with the commitments they make to me and other school staff	1	2	3	4	5
i. After-school staff transmit important information about children and parents to me and my staff in a timely fashion	1	2	3	4	5
j. After-school staff take care of the space the school provides the program	1	2	3	4	5
k. I am satisfied with the extent to which the after-school program involves me in decisions about program operations	1	2	3	4	5
l. Students are properly supervised by after-school program staff	1	2	3	4	5
m. Curriculum and instruction in the after-school program reinforce concepts being taught during the school day	1	2	3	4	5
n. The after-school program provides students with learning opportunities not available during the regular school day	1	2	3	4	5
o. The after-school program has enough capacity to serve all interested students	1	2	3	4	5
p. The after-school program is well coordinated with other after-school programs at the school	1	2	3	4	5

5. In your judgment, to what extent does the after-school program:

	<i>Very much</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
a. Enhance the overall effectiveness of the school?	1	2	3	4
b. Enhance students' motivation to learn?	1	2	3	4
c. Contribute to improved student skills in reading?	1	2	3	4
d. Contribute to improved student skills in math?	1	2	3	4
e. Enhance students' attitudes toward school?	1	2	3	4
f. Improve students' safety?	1	2	3	4
g. Improve student attendance?	1	2	3	4
h. Reduce vandalism at the school?	1	2	3	4
i. Increase parents' attendance at school events?	1	2	3	4
j. Increase parents' attendance at parent-teacher conferences?	1	2	3	4

6. What are the most effective strategies used by the TASC after-school program to complement or augment curriculum, content, and/or activities from the regular school day? (**Circle all that apply.**)

- The after-school program is not aligned or coordinated with the regular school program in any way (**Skip to Question 7**)
- a. The after-school program uses school administrators (e.g., deans, assistant principals) to advise or monitor activities..... 1
- b. After-school staff coordinate homework assistance with classroom teachers 1
- c. The after-school program adopts school themes for special projects 1
- d. The after-school program solicits input from the principal and teachers on skills in which students need help, and incorporates these topics into after-school activities 1
- e. The coordinator of the after-school program serves on a school planning team.. 1
- f. Other (Specify) _____ 1
- _____
- _____

The questions below address resources contributed by the school to the after-school program.

7. About how much **time** do you spend on tasks related to the TASC after-school program?
- a. Less than 1 hour a month 1
 - b. A few hours a month 2
 - c. About 1 hour a week 3
 - d. A few hours a week 4
 - e. More than a few hours a week 5
8. How often do you **visit** the TASC after-school program?
- a. Never 1
 - b. Less than once a semester 2
 - c. 1-2 times a semester 3
 - d. About once a month 5
 - e. A few times a month 6
 - f. At least once a week 7
9. How many other **school staff not paid directly by the TASC after-school program** are involved in coordinating or overseeing the after-school program?
- a. None 1
 - b. One 2
 - c. Two or three 3
 - d. Four or five 4
 - e. More than five 5
10. Are any teachers at your school also employed by the TASC after-school program?
- a. No (**Skip to Question 12**) 1
 - b. Yes 2
 - c. Don't know (**Skip to Question 12**) 3

11. In your opinion, to what extent does having teachers from your school also working for the TASC after-school program....

	<i>To a great extent</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Not at all</i>
a. Strengthen the alignment of curriculum and instruction between the school day and the after-school program overall?	1	2	3	4
b. Facilitate communication between school and after-school program staff?	1	2	3	4
c. Positively affect the work during the school day of those teachers teaching both during the regular school day and after school?	1	2	3	4
d. Negatively affect the work of these teachers during the school day (e.g., by contributing to teacher burn-out)?	1	2	3	4
e. Strengthen the ability of the after-school program to manage the behavior of participating students?	1	2	3	4
f. Strengthen the ability of the after-school program to deliver academic content?	1	2	3	4

12. Does a representative(s) of the TASC after-school program participate in any schoolwide governing, coordinating, or advisory bodies (e.g., the school leadership team)?

- a. Yes 1
- b. No 2

13. Is a schoolwide mechanism or strategy in place for communication between school-day teachers and after-school staff about homework assignments?

- a. Yes 1
- b. No 2

Listed below are some questions regarding your overall assessment of the after-school program. If you need additional space for your responses, you may use the back of the page.

14. What have been the **primary benefits** to the school of hosting the after-school program?
(Circle all that apply.)
- None – I do not think there have been any major benefits to the school **(Skip to Question 15)**
 - a. Parents express more positive feelings about the school because it provides a safe place for their children after school 1
 - b. Students receive additional opportunities to develop literacy skills 1
 - c. Students have opportunities to participate in activities not available during the regular school day 1
 - d. Teachers from the school have opportunities to work with children outside the classroom 1
 - e. Other (Specify) _____ 1

15. What have been the **primary drawbacks** to the school of hosting the after-school program?
(Circle all that apply.)
- None – I do not think there are any major drawbacks to hosting the program **(Skip to Question 16)**
 - a. The amount of school staff time required for program coordination 1
 - b. Increased concerns for students’ safety getting home from the program 1
 - c. Sharing classroom and other school facilities with another organization 1
 - d. Other (Specify) _____ 1

16. What are the main obstacles to expanding the after-school program to serve all of the students in the school? (**Circle all that apply.**)

- The program serves all of the students in the school (**Skip to Question 17**)
 - a. There is not a demand for a larger after-school program (every student who has requested to participate has been accommodated) 1
 - b. The program does not have the administrative capacity to run a larger program 1
 - c. The program cannot hire enough qualified staff 1
 - d. There is not enough space to accommodate all of the students and offer the types of activities that the after-school program intends to provide 1
 - e. Our teachers and staff do not want the program to occupy any more classrooms than are currently in use 1
 - f. Our CBO partner is not comfortable with the program expanding beyond its current capacity..... 1
 - g. I do not want the program to expand at this time for other reasons (Specify) 1
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17. In your judgment, what are the **strengths** of the after-school program? (**Circle all that apply.**)

- None – I do not think this is a very strong program (**Skip to Question 18**)
 - a. The qualifications and leadership of the coordinator 1
 - b. Staff rapport with participants 1
 - c. Choice/diversity of activities 1
 - d. Quality of homework help 1
 - e. Quality of academic enrichment activities 1
 - f. Coordination/integration with school curriculum 1
 - g. Connections to the community 1
 - h. Connections with parents 1
 - i. Other (Specify) _____ 1
-

18. In your judgment, what aspects of the program **need attention**? (Circle all that apply.)

None – I think the program is fine as it is (Skip to Question 19)

- a. The qualifications of site coordinators 1
 - b. The qualifications of other program staff 1
 - c. Coordination with the school 1
 - d. Staff rapport with participants 1
 - e. Choice/diversity of activities 1
 - f. Quality of homework help 1
 - g. Quality of academic enrichment activities 1
 - h. Quality of other activities 1
 - i. Coordination/integration with school curriculum 1
 - j. Connections to the community 1
 - k. Connections with parents 1
 - l. Number of staff 1
 - m. Staff turnover 1
 - n. Other (Specify) _____ 1
-

19. In terms of overall costs, what are the **most significant resources** invested by the school in the TASC after-school program? (Circle all that apply.)

None – the program does not require significant resources from the school (Skip to Question 20)

- a. Administrative staff time 1
- b. Time from classroom teachers 1
- c. Time from instructional specialists (e.g., librarian, computer lab teacher) 1
- d. Time from administrative support staff 1
- e. Utilities 1
- f. Custodial services 1
- g. Supplies and materials 1
- h. Other (Specify) _____ 1

20. In your judgment, do the **benefits** of hosting the TASC after-school program outweigh the direct and indirect costs to the school?
- a. Very much 1
 - b. Somewhat..... 2
 - c. Not quite..... 3
 - d. Not at all..... 4
 - e. Don't know yet 5

21. Aside from the TASC after-school program, what other after-school programs currently operate at your school?

22. Were you the principal at this school last year?

- a. No (**YOU MAY STOP HERE—THANK YOU**)..... 1
- b. Yes (**PLEASE COMPLETE QUESTION 23 ON THE NEXT PAGE**) 2

23. Compared to last year, to what extent would you say that...

	<i>To a great extent</i>	<i>To some extent</i>	<i>A little</i>	<i>Not at all</i>	<i>Did not need to improve</i>
a. There is improved communication and interaction this year among after-school and school-day staff?	1	2	3	4	5
b. There is improved collaboration and problem solving this year between after-school and school-day staff?	1	2	3	4	5
c. School-day staff are more aware this year of the services and resources offered by the after-school program?	1	2	3	4	5
d. The entire school community feels an increased sense of safety this year because of the program?	1	2	3	4	5
e. The school invests more resources in the after-school program this year?	1	2	3	4	5

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS SURVEY.