The Missouri Afterschool Program Standards were drawn from the sources most frequently used by afterschool programs, piloted by nearly 200 afterschool programs throughout Missouri during the 2006-07 school year, and revised in response to stakeholder feedback in the spring and summer of 2007.

The Missouri Afterschool Program Standards were created for any type of program serving children and/or teens whose staff is dedicated to offering the best possible experiences for their youth and families.

These Program Standards can help afterschool programs leverage quality improvement efforts by:

- Providing a common language of quality for program administrators and frontline staff to discuss program strengths and areas for improvement.
- Identifying staff training needs and professional growth.
- Focusing limited human and financial resources for best results.
- Framing financial needs or demonstrating the support necessary to impact and improve program quality.

The Missouri Afterschool Program Standards are dedicated to the frontline staff, administrators and intermediaries who advance the afterschool profession while keeping kids safe, inspiring them to learn and helping their working families.

---

1 National AfterSchool Association’s Standards for Quality School-Age Care, St. Louis for Kids’ Quality Standards and YouthNet of Greater Kansas City’s Teen Standards.

---

Missouri Afterschool Program Standards

A resource for afterschool professionals which highlights the elements of quality programming that lead to positive experiences for youth and families.
PROGRAM CONTENT
The elements of afterschool programming that are observable at the point of service.
Consists of the environments, relationships and experiences accessible for youth and families.

Physical Environment

PE 1 The program's space arrangement allows for careful supervision and includes all safety, security and health precautions.
PE 2 The program staff facility must be a smoke-free and drug-free environment.
PE 3 The program has conduct policies that address bullying and harassment.
PE 4 The program's space is free from environmental hazards in order to protect the health of youth.
PE 5 The program facility includes a clean, sanitary restroom and access for participants and staff.
PE 6 The program's space is adequate to meet the program's needs.
PE 7 The program provides outdoor space and equipment to allow youth to take initiative and explore their interests.
PE 8 The program provides an indoor space for youth to participate in programs.
PE 9 The program's outdoor space and play area is large enough to support the program's needs.

Interpersonal Relations

IR 1 Program staff model cooperation, conflict resolution and positive relationships in their work with others.
IR 2 Program staff relate to all youth in positive ways and provide opportunities to learn and grow.
IR 3 The program builds upon the unique strengths and talents of all youth.
IR 4 Program staff use positive techniques to guide the behavior of youth.
IR 5 The program's environment includes the physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and creative needs of all youth.
IR 6 Program staff use positive techniques to guide the behavior of youth.
IR 7 The program provides individual professional development and training.
IR 8 Program staff support the development of youth.
IR 9 The program encourages youth input and participation in activity planning and decision-making.
IR 10 The program builds upon the unique strengths and talents of all youth.

Curriculum and Activities

CA 1 The program offers opportunities in the areas of a) recreation and fitness, b) academic support, c) life skills, and d) personal growth and development.
CA 2 The program's space is designed to meet the needs of all youth.
CA 3 The program provides developmentally appropriate physical, social, emotional, and cognitive domains of youth development.
CA 4 The program develops, structured, engaging experiences that reflect the physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and creative needs of all youth.
CA 5 The program has policies and practices to protect the health and safety of youth.
CA 6 The program provides opportunities for personal growth and development.
CA 7 The program activities are designed to meet the cultural needs of all youth.
CA 8 The program provides opportunities for personal growth and development.
CA 9 The program's site director/supervisor has experience working with youth.

Human Resources

HR 1 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
HR 2 The program's administration has measurable goals and objectives that directly relate to youth development outcomes.
HR 3 The program's administration allocates funds to staff, families, and school-day personnel.
HR 4 The program's administration allocates funds to staff, families, and school-day personnel.
HR 5 The program's administration allocates funds to staff, families, and school-day personnel.

Program Management
The elements of afterschool programming that are observable in organizational structure and planning.
Consists of the design and implementation of policies and practices.

Family Involvement

FI 1 The program provides opportunities for family involvement through the program.
FI 2 The program provides opportunities for family involvement through the program.
FI 3 The program provides opportunities for family involvement through the program.
FI 4 The program provides opportunities for family involvement through the program.
FI 5 The program provides opportunities for family involvement through the program.

Safety and Health

SH 1 The program provides safe and sanitary facilities.
SH 2 The program maintains a clean, sanitary environment.
SH 3 The program ensures safe and sanitary facilities.
SH 4 The program maintains a clean, sanitary environment.
SH 5 The program maintains a clean, sanitary environment.
SH 6 The program maintains a clean, sanitary environment.

Business Administration

BA 1 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 2 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 3 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 4 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 5 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 6 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 7 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 8 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 9 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.
BA 10 The program's administration provides sound fiscal management.

Shaded standards represent basic practices that should be established prior to a new program's operation or receive immediate attention if not currently evident in an established program.