

2021-2022 Training Sessions

Alabama Afterschool Quality Standards Project

Truman Pierce Institute, Auburn University College of Education
Alabama Department of Human Resources

Please check our online PD Calendar for scheduled or available dates and times.

<https://www.alabama21cclc.org/quality-standards-project>

* indicates that the session has been previously offered

Standard 1: Environmental Safety, Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Healthy Lifestyle Initiatives	page 2
Standard 2: Staff and Youth Relationships	page 3
Standard 3: Youth Participation, Learning, and Engagement	page 5
Standard 4: Family and Community Partnerships	page 8
Standard 5: Programming and Alignment with Regular School Day Learning	page 9
Standard 6: Administration and Organizational Development	page 9
Standard 7: Staffing and Professional Development	page 10
Standard 8: Evaluation for Continuous Quality Improvement	page 11
Addendum: STEM Engagement and Learning	page 12

Standard 1: Environmental Safety, Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Healthy Lifestyle Initiatives

Commit to Be Fit! Routines and Practices to Offer Physical Activity and Healthy Lifestyles ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

Be active! Be healthy! Be happy! These are habits we want to instill in our youth. Join us as we share ideas about how to encourage youth to be physically active by planning and implementing a variety of physical activities that can be integrated across programming. We will address meeting the needs, interests, abilities, and talents of all youth and even how to engage families in physical activity! We will also discuss strategies for promoting hygiene best practices and precautions and for protecting youth from spreading illness.

Do All Stakeholders Feel Safe? Creation of a Safe, Supportive Environment ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

Does your program have structures and strategies in place to create a safe and supportive environment for all? It is important to foster a safe physical environment coupled with a comfortable learning environment in which children feel safe, relaxed, and willing to take risks, especially for learners who may have had negative experiences. Children often describe supportive learning environments as places that expand their sense of family and in which they feel safe to take risks. We will explore routines and strategies to employ in order to provide a safe, supportive environment where children can grow.

Keeping Kids Safe: Physically, Socially and Emotionally* ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

A safe environment is essential for children of all ages. The gap in time between the ringing of the school bell and when adults arrive home from work has long been a concern of families and community members due to the potential dangers and risky behaviors that take place after school. The COVID breaks from school coupled with other breaks in the school calendar offer a greater challenge to keep our children safe. In the session, *Keeping School-Age Kids Safe: Physically, Socially and Emotionally*, we will explore the revisions and additions to the Health and Safety Guidelines, Requirements and Procedures for Out-of-School Time Facilities Participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program that were made so that a greater number of children may be served in our state. In addition, we will examine strategies and best practices to address student needs and increase engagement to offer a better experience for all.

Positive Behavior Supports in Out-of-School* ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) is an evidence-based approach for establishing the social, cultural and behavioral supports needed to establish an effective learning environment for all students. Consistency is key to success. The afterschool program can help improve the school climate and reduce behavior management issues by integrating PBS strategies beyond the school day.

Poverty Simulation- must be in person with a minimum of 40 participants* ***TPI Staff Members***

Poverty is a reality for many individuals and families, and unless one has experienced poverty, it is difficult to comprehend. The Truman Pierce Institute will work with you to conduct the Community Action Poverty Simulation to help bridge the gap from misconception to understanding through an interactive immersion experience. The experience lasts 2.5–3 hours. It includes a brief introduction and briefing of the simulation exercise and a debriefing period after the exercise in which the participants and volunteer staffers share their feelings and experiences.

Standard 2: Staff and Youth Relationships

Being Strategic in the Midst of Conflict - Conflict Resolution and Bullying Prevention ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

“The quality of our lives depends not on whether or not we have conflicts, but on how we respond to them.”
(Thomas Crum) This session will provide tools and strategies that youth and staff can use when conflicts arise. We will share activity ideas that promote cooperation and respect to help youth interact in positive ways. We will also talk about creating anti-bullying policies and communicating those policies and expectations clearly and concisely with youth, families, and staff.

Differences in You and Me; Embracing the Differences You See ***Dr. Jason Bryant***

This session will help childcare providers understand the importance of embracing cultural diversity within their school setting. We live in a diverse society and it is important that educators help students navigate the differences we see, along with understanding how important culture is to our overall growth.

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Learning Styles to Engage and Support Learners ***Dr. Jason Bryant***

This session will introduce childcare providers to the various learning styles and inventories that are available to help differentiate information to help support and engage students in the classroom. Even our youngest learners have unique learning styles, and it is important to recognize those to help them continue to grow in their academic and social needs.

Perception vs Reality – Are your mission, goals, and objectives aligned for quality improvement? ***Dr. Jason Bryant***

We often think that our mission, goals, and objectives are aligned for success, but have you taken the time to review these with your staff? This session will have participants review key documents (mission, goals, and objectives) to determine if alignment is there for overall quality improvement. It is also important that these items are truly a part of the overall culture and not just words on paper.

Promising Practices to Provide Positive Outcomes for Our Youth ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

With the growing need for afterschool, a large body of evidence exists that confirms quality afterschool programs help children become more engaged in school, reduce their likelihood of taking part in at-risk behaviors or acting out in school, and help raise their academic performance. Let's explore outcomes and promising practices to provide a quality program for our youth.

Trauma-Informed Practices: Nurturing Resilience for Success

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Need strategies to respond to children who have experienced trauma? *Trauma-Informed Practices: Nurturing Resilience for Success* will review how trauma affects behavior and discuss how to respond appropriately to trauma-induced behaviors. We will share strategies for relationship-building and for nurturing the skills children need to be resilient after going through difficult circumstances, thus reducing mental stress, strengthening student outcomes, and creating a healthier learning environment.

Equity in STEM Education*

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Children are often exposed to gender and ethnic stereotypes in STEM education from an early age. These stereotypes can be unintentionally reinforced through routines and practices. By increasing our awareness of these stereotypes and recognizing and respecting the diversity in our out-of-school programs, we can learn to cultivate an environment in which all students are empowered, challenged, supported, and provided full access to STEM education. Join us as we explore ways to bridge the gender and ethnic gaps often found in STEM fields. Increasing excitement about STEM and improving accessibility to STEM learning will boost student confidence and ultimately have a positive impact on students' future life choices.

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Implementing Best Practices to Increase Engagement*

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Are you seeking new strategies to engage your school-age children? Let's explore best practices to help increase achievement for struggling students, reduce disruption and allow a positive, productive environment.

Positive Behavior Supports in Out-of-School*

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SEL: Employability Skills*

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

What characteristics do we want students to possess by the time they graduate from high school? Social and emotional learning (SEL) provides the structure and processes that help to develop fundamental emotional and social competencies and experiences that enable us to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Discover the why and how of bringing social emotional learning (SEL) to your out-of-school program.

Standard 3: Youth Participation, Learning, and Engagement

Communicate, Collaborate, Celebrate! How Out-of-School Can Support Regular School Day Learning

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Challenge children intellectually, creatively, and physically by weaving learning into your programming and linking program activities to the school day curriculum. During this session, we will share ideas for offering deep experiential activities not usually available during the school day and how to foster regular conversations between out-of-school staff and regular school day staff.

Differences in You and Me; Embracing the Differences You See

Dr. Jason Bryant

This session will help childcare providers understand the importance of embracing cultural diversity within their school setting. We live in a diverse society and it is important that educators help students navigate the differences we see, along with understanding how important culture is to our overall growth.

Don't Reinvent the Wheel: Resources to Improve and Enhance Learning Opportunities

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Great teachers and childcare providers are always reflecting upon lessons and wish to provide quality experiences for children. Finding resources and lessons takes time. Join us to discover strategies and resources to enrich your program. Working together sure makes us smarter! [Participants will need have a device on which they can explore links to online resources during the session.]

Financial Literacy: Prepare Our Youth in Money Management

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Financial literacy lessons teach children the basics of money management: budgeting, saving, debt, investing, and giving. That knowledge lays a foundation for our youth to build strong money habits early on and avoid many of the mistakes that lead to lifelong money struggles. Explore the benefits and importance of teaching financial literacy to our youth. Learn about resources to employ and steps you can implement to ensure an impactful experience to prepare our children for life.

Learning Styles to Engage and Support Learners

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Project-Based Learning to Engage and Provide Voice and Choice

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Voice and choice are an essential part of Project Based Learning that often gets overlooked. Voice and choice happen when the teacher relinquishes the leadership of the lessons and projects to students, allowing them to design their own projects that show off their learning in unique and individual ways. Join us to discover the facilitator's role, to explore techniques for facilitating youth voice and to identify steps for incorporating youth voice in project-based learning.

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STEM: Choice and Voice to Offer Hope

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Allowing students to become active creators rather than passive consumers can transform the learning and quickly become your secret teacher superpower. An afterschool environment provides a great place for this to occur. Since there is a great need for STEM skills in the workplace, let's offer our children the opportunity to guide their learning while completing real-world problems. Join us to discover how choice and voice can offer our children hope!

STEM: Inexpensive, Easy Activities to Implement and Engage our Youth

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Challenge Kids with Robots and Coding*

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Dash and Dot are the perfect way to bring STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math) into a new light for children. Robots teach kids age five and up how to code while they play. Using cool, free apps and a compatible tablet or smartphone, kids learn to code while they make Dash sing, dance, and move all around the room. Dash and Dot are exciting, hands-on learning tools for students in grades K-5! Targeted at teaching creative problem solving and computational thinking, Dash and Dot help students learn fundamental processes relevant for all 21st-century skills. Students send commands to the robots to move them, light them up, and have them detect the world around them using four free coding applications available on iPad and Android tablets. Join us to learn more!

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Spark Curiosity and Interest through STEM*

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

The curiosity and creative thinking of children produce natural STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learners. Children construct knowledge through observation, exploration, and experimentation. STEM learning uses teachable moments and children's long-term investigations to build knowledge through developing children's inquiry, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. By cultivating these critical skills teachers and childcare providers can positively influence children's learning in the STEM disciplines. Join us to discover resources and strategies to prepare our school-age children (4 to 12 years old) for school and beyond.

Standard 4: Family and Community Partnerships

Differences in You and Me; Embracing the Differences You See **Dr. Jason Bryant**

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How to Engage Your Parents in Your Activities **Erika Rucker**

Have you ever had a Family Engagement activity where no parents showed up? This session will help educators learn different ways to engage with families in their programs. We will also discuss scheduling and partners who can help with providing these activities.

Increasing Family Engagement to Elevate Learning **Dr. Jason Bryant**

Successfully engaging families in your programs can result in positive learning and social emotional outcomes for children and their families, but it can also positively impact program staff and communities. In this session, we will focus on key points from the book *Engaged: Building Intentional Partnerships with Families*, from the Parents as Teachers National Center. We will look at family engagement as it relates to 10 key values including trust, compassion, and generosity. Through targeted discussions during this session, celebrate what is good about your current family engagement framework and discover what you can do to elevate it to a new level.

STEM Family Night: Why, How, and Activities to Include **Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney**

A STEM Family Night is an evening of hands-on science, math, and engineering activities for families to complete together. The event includes a variety of activities covering different STEM topics and connections to exciting STEM careers. To get started on your STEM Family Night planning, join us to discover the why, how, and resources to provide a fun, learning opportunity for our children and families.

Community: Building Partnerships for Sustainability* **Erika Rucker**

Would you like to see additional programs at your site without having to plan them? Or maybe get free treats for your students and staff? Join us as we discuss how to leverage partners in your community to create more successful programs. Topics discussed will include how to find partners, the initial ask for partnership, including your partners in planning, and more.

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Standard 5: Programming and Alignment with Regular School Day Learning

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Playing Nice with the School Staff ***Erika Rucker***

This session will help educators learn how to build and strengthen relationships and align with the school day with school day staff and administration. Playing Nice with School Staff will help to form a true partnership with afterschool, show your organization is a positive for the school, and help you get data and things your program needs.

Standard 6: Administration and Organizational Development

Building Capacity from Within, Shifting from Leadership to Buildership ***Dr. Jason Bryant***

How can you build positive, productive, caring teams in the workplace? It begins with building positive relationships and setting clear expectations within your organization. This will lead to increased productivity and creativity which only supports the morale and positive rapport within your organization. This session will help turn your center/school into a success story with the people and resources you already have. We will discuss your purpose, people, plan, pathway, and pulling it all together so that you can begin to write your success story today!

Don't Reinvent the Wheel: Resources to Improve and Enhance Learning Opportunities ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

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Share Your Story: Marketing Strategies to Sustain a Quality Program ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

You work hard to make your program the best it can be. It's time to let people know about the great things you are doing! In this session, we will discuss strategies for marketing your program through both print and digital campaigns and social media. The more they know, the more you grow!

Work Smarter, Not Harder: Record Keeping and Financial Management ***Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney***

Organization a problem? Join us for ideas about how to streamline your registration and record-keeping using programs such as Excel and Google Docs. Learn strategies for tracking income and expenses and managing budgetary constraints in a systematic way.

Building Teams and Relationships*

Dr. Jason Bryant

How can you build positive, productive, caring teams in the workplace? It begins with building positive relationships and setting clear expectations within your organization along with injecting a bit of humor along the way. Team building has several major objectives, one of which is enhancing good communications with participants as team members and individuals. There is also increased productivity and creativity which only supports the morale and positive rapport within your organization. Research has found when teams are at their personal best, they follow these five practices: *model the way, inspire a shared vision, challenge the process, enable others to act, and encourage the heart*. This training offers a powerful opportunity for you to reflect on each essential element, think beyond your personal agenda, and to involve others in the planning and the doing while having fun along the way.

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Heroes Get Tired Too: Caring for Self and Staff

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Whew- Let's Start Next School Year Off Right! Childcare providers and educators work hard to bring their best selves to the classroom every day while they juggle individual student needs, set ambitious goals, and often work long hours. Many providers also face escalating job demands with few resources while they work with students who face complex trauma, behavioral difficulties and learning challenges. The stress level of childcare providers and teachers can affect their health and well-being as well as their job satisfaction and teacher retention. It is essential for educators take time to prevent burnout, promote health, and protect themselves from the negative effects of stress. Discover strategies and practices to take care self and staff and to create a positive environment for all.

Playing Nice with the School Staff

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Preparation + Communication = Staff Success

Sandy Resa and Michelle Denney

Hiring and retaining quality staff is essential to achieving program excellence. Join us as we discuss strategies for preparing your staff for success. We will address topics that include how to plan effective orientation procedures for new staff and how to conduct a needs assessment in order to provide ongoing professional development that reflects individual needs and promotes personal growth. We will also share suggestions for how to provide constructive feedback regarding individual performance goals. Positive communication between program leaders and staff will help your program employ best practices to meet the needs of the whole child.

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