

MASP After-School *Committed to Quality* Recognition Certificate

Is your program committed to quality? MASP would like to annually recognize programs that have made a commitment to ensuring quality experiences to children and youth in Michigan.

What is a MASP *Committed to Quality* Recognition Certificate?

Committed to Quality Recognition Certificates are awarded annually to after-school programs that testify in writing that they follow a set of practices that are consistent with the ***Model Standards for Out-of-School Time/After-School Programs in Michigan*** (Model Standards) which were adopted by the Michigan State Board of Education in August 2008 and endorsed by the Michigan After-School Partnership and the Michigan AfterSchool Association.

A *Committed to Quality* Recognition Certificate is awarded to programs willing to guarantee that they not only acknowledge and are familiar with the Model Standards, but that they continually strive to make quality improvements in their programs.

Why should we participate?

Some potential benefits to completing the process and making the commitment to quality:

- Educate staff and board members on the criteria that the field acknowledges make a high-quality program. This information can also be used in strategic planning.
- Useful as a tool in staff/program evaluation to identify areas needing improvement and in developing a plan to address areas of concern or additional training.
- Serves as a motivator for staff and to help set goals for staff team building.
- When displayed prominently and publicized, can serve as a reminder to staff, parents and the community about your commitment to quality.

How can we receive a MASP *Committed to Quality* Recognition Certificate?

Use the self-assessment process (link) to conduct a self-evaluation for your after-school program. The document was developed as a companion to the Model Standards. The standards are based on research concerning quality programs for school-age children.

This document may be used as a guide to developing and evaluating out-of-school time programs for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. While not targeted for programs serving high school students, many of these standards may be applicable to these programs as well. The Model Standards indicate very high-quality. This Self-Assessment Checklist is recommended, along with other research-based assessment tools for program monitoring and self-assessment [i.e., Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA), Afterschool Program Assessment System (APAS), Quality Assurance System (QAS)]. We suggest that you document and gather evidence to substantiate your evaluation and create a plan to address areas that need more attention. The self-assessment process can be completed in a variety of ways. It is recommended that programs use a team approach when conducting the self-assessment. Greater strides will be made when all involved parties contribute to the process and help shape a program's goals. You can do an administrative assessment, or form an evaluation committee comprised of parents, staff and board members. Please evaluate the **current** practices of your program. We recommend an annual assessment and commitment.

How do we submit our application for a MASP *Committed to Quality* Certificate?

Simply complete the self assessment process and then sign the corresponding commitment form. Mail/fax/email the letter to MASP at the contact info below.



MASP *Committed to Quality* Recognition

Name of program _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Email address _____ Contact person _____

Our program has been evaluated using the *Model Standards for Out-of-School Time/After-School Programs in Michigan Self-Assessment Checklist*

We have determined that the indicators of high-quality are in place for the following identified critical components for out-of-school time programs:

- Health, Safety, and Nutrition;
- Human Relationships and Staffing;
- Indoor and Outdoor Environment;
- Program and Activities;
- Administration; and
- Single-Purpose Programs (if applicable)

Practice of which we are particularly proud: (Insert a practice that your program follows that may be shared with other programs as a promising practice with others. Feel free to also attach video or photos.)

Director or CEO

Date

Please return to:

Michigan After-School Partnership | 1627 Lake Lansing Road Ste. B | Lansing, MI 48912
Phone: 517-371-4360 x17 | Fax: 517-371-5860 | Email: msutton@uwmich.org | Web: www.Mlafterschool.org