



Jeanne B. Mullgrav
Commissioner

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Dear Community Members:

I am pleased to present “Achieving Program Quality in the DYCD Out of School Time (OST) Initiative: Strategies for 15 Programs.” This report, prepared for the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) by Policy Studies Associates, Inc., describes strategies that programs have used to foster high levels of youth participation and positive social and academic outcomes.

Focusing on a sample of 15 programs, this study incorporates qualitative descriptions and quantitative data collected over the first four years of the OST initiative, and highlights factors that appear to facilitate positive youth experiences. Addressing core program components, including activity content, relationships among youth and between youth and adult staff, and staffing supports, the approaches set out provide helpful guidance to everyone engaged in OST programming. DYCD is gratified that the report’s conclusions support the technical assistance and capacity-building efforts the agency is undertaking to promote the adoption of evidence-based best practices across the OST initiative.

I look forward to sharing these findings with program providers and other stakeholders as we continue to work together to provide high-quality OST programming for New York City youth, and their families.

Sincerely,

Jeanne B. Mullgrav