

YEAR 1 (2014–2015)

Mayor de Blasio and his administration have greatly expanded afterschool options for NYC middle schoolers through the School's Out New York City (SONYC) initiative. Through the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), NYC is supporting organizations across the city in providing new programs and expanding existing ones. American Institutes for Research (AIR), an independent evaluator, has been studying the SONYC expansion. In Year 1, AIR conducted a case study of 37 high-performing sites. Here we present key findings from this in-depth research. The youth, families, and program staff who participated in the case study reported that the SONYC expansion was a success.

WHAT DO FAMILIES SAY ABOUT SONYC?

My child feels excited about the afterschool program because each day **she learns something new.**



97% would recommend the program to other families



WHAT DO **YOUTH SAY** ABOUT SONYC?

I learned how to become a leader and not a follower. I learned a lot about leadership and how to communicate with my peers.

91% report that they have fun during activities

89% would recommend the program to a friend

IN THEIR WORDS:

PROGRAM & SCHOOL STAFF

We are teaching them a lot of leadership and life skills that they take with them outside... and we see their progress throughout the year. We see them... taking these skills and putting them to use in the school day. -Program Director

It really brings the school community together.... Most of the [afterschool] teachers are teachers that teach here during the regular school day, [which keeps] kids connected to their teachers. -School Principal

That's a little something that we like about the program: it's not in isolation. It is school and afterschool together as one. -Program Activity Leader

Youth described how the SONYC program makes them feel. The bigger the word, the more often it was used.



DRAMATIC RISE IN SONYC ENROLLMENT



18,702 youth enrolled in 143 programs



SCHOOL YEAR 2014-15 **58,745** youth enrolled in 459 programs

WHAT WERE THEY **DOING?** How participants spent their time:



27% Physical Activity and Healthy Living

22% Leadership Development

18%

Academic Support (includes homework help and tutoring)

SONYC EVALUATION BY THE NUMBERS

- **37** site visits across New York City
- **2,100** youth surveys

- 900 family surveys
- **2,300** hours of program observations **7,600** hours of interviews with program directors, staff, principals, and teachers
 - Analysis of SONYC data

SONYC programs enrolled over 58,000 participants. City-wide, over 111,000 middle school students attended after-school programs, with the balance served by other programs at DYCD and the Department of Education. DYCD hired independent research firm American Institutes for Research to conduct the ongoing implementation evaluation.



Department of Youth & Community **Development**



