

Hot Topics for Out-of-School Time Directors and Administrators

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***Hot Topic* Information Technology**

"Incorporating Technology into Out-of-School Time Programs: Benefits, Challenges, and Strategies" (2010)

Since youth are growing up in an increasingly technology-saturated world, this Child Trends brief explains that the use of technology in out-of-school time (OST) programs can actually extend student learning. It draws on results from non-experimental research and the insights of practitioners to outline the benefits, challenges, and strategies associated with using technology in OST programs. It not only ends with some creative uses of technology in OST programs, but also provides additional online resources for OST staff.

Where to Find it: <http://tinyurl.com/aczxhz8>

***Hot Topic* Human Resources and Supervision**

"How Program Administrators Can Support Out-of-School Time Staff" (2009)

This brief from Child Trends explains that implementing high-quality out-of-school time (OST) programs requires well-trained and well-prepared frontline staff that are supported by informed, competent, and committed program managers and administrators. Based on the results of a conducted literature review as well as a study on the role of frontline staff, this brief describes what facilitative administration is, why it is so important, and how facilitative administration effectively promotes high-quality implementation in OST programs.

Where to Find it: Go to the OSTRC Document Library and click on the "Program Management & Administration" tab. Find the reports under the "Human Resources and Supervision" section.

***Hot Topic* Advocacy and Policy**

"Strengthening Partnerships and Building Public Welfare for Out-of-School Time Programs" (2010).

This guide from the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YES) describes three key strategies that city officials and community leaders can use to generate support for access to high-quality out-of-school time (OST) activities.

The three strategies are:

1. Engage and involve a broad set of partners to take full advantage of all community resources
2. Keep out-of-school time on the public agenda
3. Lead efforts for city, school, and community leaders to establish a common set of outcomes and a shared vision for out-of-school time.

Where to Find it: Go to the OSTRC Document Library and click on the "Program Management & Administration" tab. Find the reports under the "Advocacy and Policy" section.

Featured Hot Topic:

Administrative Management Capacity in Out-of-School Time Organizations: An Exploratory Study (2009)

Summary:

In a study commissioned by the Wallace Foundation, Fiscal Management Associates (FSA) conducted research on the management capacity and needs of 16 organizations providing OST services in New York and Chicago. The resulting findings show that many organizations lack the financial resources to invest significantly in administrative staff, facilities needs, IT infrastructure and support, and transformational purchases. As a result, program staff are required to do more "administration" in order to make up the gaps in administrative infrastructure and support.

Where to find the full article:

Go to the OSTRC Document Library and click on the "Program Management & Administration" tab. Find the reports under the "Program Management and Administration" section.