

BEYOND the BELL

at American Institutes for Research ■

Beyond the Bell Helps Program Leaders Create Effective Afterschool and Expanded Learning Programs

Today's afterschool and expanded learning programs provide enriching activities that support academic, social, emotional, artistic, and physical growth. Research shows that these programs work best when they are high quality and evidence based.

Beyond the Bell: A Toolkit for Creating Effective Afterschool and Expanded Learning Programs (4th Edition) takes the guesswork out of designing, implementing, and evaluating your program by translating the latest research into accessible information and tools.

Whether you are a program leader or staff member, whether you are new to the field of afterschool and expanded learning or a seasoned veteran, whether you want to fine-tune a successful program or design a new one from the ground up—*Beyond the Bell* can help you provide enriching programming that supports youth development. This *Toolkit* contains practical and substantive information about all aspects of program design, management, partnerships, delivery, evaluation, and improvement, along with 96 ready-to-use tools.

Inside the Fourth Edition

The *Beyond the Bell Toolkit*, 4th Edition, is designed to help program leaders and staff adopt a model of continuous improvement. In this model, staff members **develop** programs using sound processes, **implement** those programs by employing quality practices, **evaluate** the implementation of the program, and use the data from the evaluation activities to continually **improve** the program.

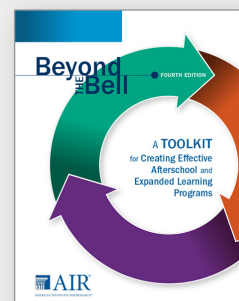
The Toolkit features practical **tips** and **reminders**, **links** to other parts of the continuous improvement cycle, and **Voices From the Field**—true stories that describe what real programs are doing.

New topics covered in this edition:

- Conducting a market analysis and identifying assets and needs
- Partnering with the school, families, and the community

- The Common Core State Standards and what they mean for afterschool and expanded learning
- Youth development principles and practices
- Updated communication strategies, including using social media
- Additional program types: creative arts, health and wellness, and personal and social skills
- Using your evaluation for continuous improvement

Now available for purchase.



Customizable Tools

All tools are provided in Word format for easy customization.

Sample tools include:

- Defining Advisory Board Purpose
- Program Schedule
- Youth Preference Survey
- Evaluation Report Template
- Continuous Improvement Reflection Tool

Beyond the Bell Professional Development Services

The *Beyond the Bell Toolkit* may be used as a standalone resource. However, AIR also offers training on how to best use the information and associated tools. AIR has a series of professional development opportunities designed to help program leaders and staff implement practices in the *Beyond the Bell Toolkit* effectively. Through webinars or in-person workshops, AIR staff can facilitate training sessions on topics such as youth development and afterschool and expanded learning; integrating standards into enrichment activities; incorporating hands-on, project-based activities; conducting an effective evaluation; and using data to tell your story.

There is no need to reinvent the wheel when you have a copy of Beyond the Bell. It gives new staff a comprehensive picture of a fully developed program—or, for someone like me with over 10 years of experience in the field, I refer to BtB for inspiration and fresh ideas.

In the early days of our work, afterschool just meant an open door and a safe place for unstructured play, but now our work goes much deeper. We have high expectations for our children and youth. We need programs and staff that offer young people activities based on experience and best practice. Beyond the Bell is a resource to support organized, responsive, and high-quality programs.

Kim Kelly

Associate Director of Community School Initiatives, Family Focus, Inc.

About American Institutes for Research

Established in 1946, American Institutes for Research (AIR) is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts and applies behavioral and social science research both domestically and internationally in education, health, and workforce productivity—all with a special emphasis on the disadvantaged. AIR is dedicated to improving people's lives with the best research and with adoption of evidence-based practices.

About the Learning Supports Network

AIR's Afterschool and Expanded Learning team has more than a decade of experience in supporting the implementation of high-quality opportunities for young people, evaluating afterschool initiatives using qualitative and quantitative techniques, and supporting informed policy decisions. The members of the team are experts in building continuous improvement systems, and they strive to provide practitioners meaningful linkages between research and practice in afterschool and expanded learning programs.

The Afterschool and Expanded Learning team is part of AIR's Learning Supports Network, which represents the system of supports for education agencies, schools and districts, foundations, and other stakeholders to ensure that young people's educational experience fosters positive growth and development. The network includes services related to social and emotional learning, and to the Good Behavior Game, AIR's classroom behavior management strategy.

How to Purchase Beyond the Bell

Online | www.beyondthebell.org

E-mail | beyondthebell@air.org

Phone | **312.283.2412**

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