

Sample Focus Group Questions

Use the sample focus group questions for staff, parents, and students below as guides to help you develop your own set of questions for your stakeholders. Focus groups allow participants to share details and examples elaborating on the information gained from surveys and other data sources.

Staff Focus Group Questions

- How did you become interested in this type of position (working in an afterschool program)? What made you decide to take this position? (Are they involved in the school during the day? What is their background, credentials, etc.?)
- Please describe the program and your role in the program.
- What are the goals of the program?
- Do you think the participants enjoy coming to the program?
- Do you think the program has affected participants in the following areas:
 - Behavior
 - School performance
 - School attitude/motivation
- What types of support do you receive from the program (other program staff, site coordinator, project director)? From the school? From parents?
- How often do you communicate with school-day staff? With the site coordinator? With the teachers of your participants? What systems are in place for communication (ex. student logs, regular meetings)?
- How often do you coordinate with teachers to support what they're doing with students during regular school hours?
- What are some challenges you have experienced in the program so far?
- What are some successes you have experienced in the program so far?
- How do you plan what activities/programming you offer? (Did they survey the community? Base it on community need? Is it built on research or what has been found to be successful for OST programs?)
- Are there any community organizations that work with the program? In what ways do these organizations provide support?
- Does the program encourage parental involvement? How many parent volunteers are there? Is there a parent volunteer requirement?
- Does the program engage in planned and continuous evaluation? Are there ways for the students and their parents to make suggestions about the program? How do you record what is happening at the program? How do you record successes, challenges? Do you receive feedback from others such as school staff or the program director? Do you track homework completion?
- What types of training are available to staff?

Sample Focus Group Questions

Parent Focus Group Questions

- Do you think there is a need for this type of program (afterschool program) in your community?
- Why did you enroll your son/daughter in this program?
- Does your son/daughter enjoy going to the afterschool program?
- Do you think the program has affected your son/daughter in the following areas:
 - Behavior
 - School performance
 - School attitude/motivation
- What do you know about how much the school and afterschool program support each other?
- Is the program convenient for you? (Time, transportation, etc.)
- Have you been involved with the program in any way?
- What are the best things about the program in your opinion?
- What are some things you would like to see changed?

Student Focus Group Questions

- What types of things are there for you to do here in your community? (What do kids your age do in this community?)
- Do you think it is important to have a program like this here in your community?
- Why did you join/start participating in the program?
- Do you enjoy the program?
- Do you look forward to attending the program?
- Do you feel comfortable talking to the program staff?
- Do you feel there is someone available in the program to help when you need it?
- Do you think that you are doing better in school since you started coming to the program?
- What kinds of things are you working on right now?
- How interested are you in the things that you do here?
- Do you do work in the after-school program that relates to what you're doing in school during the day?
- How is the program similar to what you do at school? How is it different?
- What would you tell others about the program who do not participate?
- What would you be doing after school if you weren't coming to the program?
- Do you have any ideas to make the program better?
- What is your favorite part of the program?

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