

**Vermont's Principles for Afterschool Excellence:**  
A Vision for Using Time and Programming Creatively  
to Support Vermont's Children and Youth

**Access**

All Vermont children and youth have access to high-quality afterschool opportunities.

**Lifelong Learning**

Quality afterschool programs inspire children and youth to explore learning through innovative opportunities that extend beyond the school day, textbook, and classroom. These programs engage and excite participants to develop a love of learning, an expanded world view, and an understanding of their place in a global society. They encourage participants to consider and prepare for careers, college and citizenship.

**Holistic Development**

Quality afterschool programs embrace diversity and support the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual growth and development of children and youth in a supportive, nurturing, and inclusive environment.

**Success at School**

Quality afterschool programs provide opportunities to explore new approaches to learning, acquire new skills, and access support in core academic areas to enhance school success.

**Child & Youth Voice and Engagement**

Quality afterschool programs commit to intentionally providing purposeful and meaningful engagement of children and youth in developmentally appropriate programmatic decision-making.

**Community Engagement**

Quality afterschool programs access all of the assets of the broader community to support, advise, and enrich the program. These programs are active participants in the community and encourage and support the civic engagement of children and youth, staff, and families.

**Safety and Prevention**

Quality afterschool programs are safe places for children and youth that promote an empowered sense of self and strong mutually supportive relationships.

**Engaging Families**

Quality afterschool programs develop active partnerships with families that encourage and support family involvement in their child's learning and growth experiences.