

The Positive Youth Development Grant Program Act of 2011

Authorizing legislation

- Established the intent and structure for the use of state funds for grants to local communities to operate high quality after school and summer programs.
- Rules a regulations were approved in July 2013

Legislative intent:

- Builds on the consistent standards, parent and community engagement, and goals established by the 2008 Governor's Task Force on Best Practices for Afterschool and Summer Programs.
- Expands access to safe, challenging, engaging, and supervised learning experiences .
- School-linked programs offering community-based service and other experiences that offer rich and varied academic support.
- Build workforce skills critical to employment and future economic success.

Administrative Structure:

- Department of Education to establish rules and regulations, standards and outcome measures.
- Local programs are funded in consultation with the DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education that will administer the statewide program.

A Targeted Approach:

- Priority consideration will be given to a community where:
 - Any school (a) has fifty percent (50%) or more students eligible for free and reduced lunches; and (b) has been designated by the Department of Education as being in school improvement.
 - Children and youth ages five (5) through nineteen (19) who are members of a family with a gross family income not exceeding two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible. Provisions are made to expand programs to higher income families on a sliding fee scale.

Other Key Elements:

- Community Engagement: Requires documentation of strong community engagement and collaboration between schools, public institutions, private agencies, business, and other community-based organizations working together to create a "community learning environment."
- Use a variety of approaches: Academic supports and skill building activities; programs that improve the health and wellness; art, theater, music programs; service learning or community service experiences; activities that link academic curriculum to actual work experiences; services to disconnected youth; family and community engagement.
- Sustainable funding: Grants shall be awarded for a period of three (3) years and distributed annually during the life of the grant according to the terms of the grant.
- Quality Standards and Outcome Measures: Outcome measures will include but not limited to: student achievement, academic skills, school engagement; social, emotional, and behavioral development; health and wellness; and reduced contact with the judicial system.