

## **Quality Standards Work Group**

### **Definition and Purpose of Quality Standards**

**The California Department of Education’s program quality standards for expanded learning programs describe high levels of performance of a program at the point of service and in program management.**

- The standards align with the After School Division’s expanded learning vision - “California’s Expanded Learning programs are an integral part of young people’s education, engaging them in year-round learning opportunities that prepare them for college, career, and life.”
- They are intended to apply to CDE grantees and to be useful to the expanded learning field in general.
- They are intentionally short, simple and descriptive.
- They include the five LIAS principles - learning is active, collaborative, meaningful, supports mastery, and expands horizons.
- They will inform the work of the ASD’s four strategic initiative teams.

**The standards are intended to serve as:**

- A framework of clear expectations for all stakeholders.
- A guide to inform the After School Division’s decision-making - in, for example, technical assistance decisions, language in requests for applications, policy and regulatory processes.
- A guide for program providers to assess their own programs in what they are doing well and what needs improvement.
- A guide for parents and youth to identify quality programming.
- A guide for school principals and district superintendents to reinforce and advance key priorities.
- A complement to other standards in the State of California focused on quality improvement— LIAS, Quality Self Assessment Tool, Quality Self Assessment Rubric (ASSETs), Center for Youth Program Quality, etc.
- They are not intended as a compliance tool.

# Anatomy of a Standard



**TITLE**

## Active and Engaged Learning



**STANDARD**

### ***Standard:***

Programming and activities are developmentally appropriate and serve the physical, cognitive, social, emotional and creative development of all participants.



**DESCRIPTOR**

### ***An afterschool program:***

- Promotes discovery learning across all programmatic areas
- Supports participants to navigate the learning space independently
- Provides a wide variety of activities that promote youth choice
- Involves participants in planning, development and implementation
- Engages participants in project-based, hands-on experiential activities linked to learning
- Develops leadership among and provides leadership opportunities to all participants under the guidance of program staff

**Domain:** A sphere of activity, concern, or function;

**Standard:** Something, such as a practice or a product, that is widely recognized or employed, especially because of its excellence  
-Acceptable but of less than top quality:

**Indicator:** One that indicates, especially: **a.** A pointer or an index. **b** The needle, dial, or other registering device on such an instrument.