



Iowa's Blueprint for Afterschool is intended to start conversations, raise awareness and provide a plan for next steps for afterschool around the state. This will require individuals, communities, and policy leaders to work together to overcome barriers in providing accessible, high-quality opportunities for children and youth when they are not in school.

Iowa has a responsibility to its children, families, and communities to provide access to high-quality, affordable afterschool for all Iowans. The provision of these opportunities ensures access to cultural, civic, recreational, and educational opportunities that can effectively provide Iowa's young people the tools needed to develop skills to be competitive in the global economy and life. The successful provision of afterschool opportunities for all Iowa's youth will only be realized through the coordinated implementation of the following five strategies:

- » **Develop policies and sustainable funding to construct a statewide infrastructure that systemically strives to increase the accessibility and quality of afterschool programming**

This statewide system will engage leadership to spur changes in statewide policy, funding, administration, oversight, and quality outcomes

- » **Ensure afterschool is community-driven**

It is important for afterschool programs to be designed and sustained by meeting the needs of the community in which it serves

- » **Develop and implement common standards of quality**

As a larger statewide investment is made in afterschool programming, it is imperative for common standards of quality to be instituted to ensure that appropriate outcome measures are met

- » **Promote effective collaboration and partnerships among stakeholders**

Local collaborations and partnerships can create opportunities for the highest quality programming at the lowest price: pooling resources and opportunities

- » **Provide technical assistance and resources to communities, families, and afterschool programs**

Technical assistance should be offered to programs to promote program success and sustainability in the form of staff development, curriculum development, and quality and safety standards