

WHAT IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME?

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

In 2011-2012, almost one in three Bexar County students left high school before graduating. African American (33%) and Hispanic students (36%) were two times more likely to leave school without graduating than White students (16%).

For these students, the path to leaving high school may have begun as early as the sixth grade. Research has identified the middle school years as an important “make or break” period during which adolescent youth, in particular, those in high-poverty, urban areas often begin to disengage and fall off the path to graduation.

Out-of-School Time (OST) programs that help students navigate the transition to middle school and keep them engaged in school can help students stay on the path to graduation.

WHAT IS OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST)?

OST programs provide K-12 students with a range of structured activities that occur outside the traditional school day -- before and after school, on weekends, holidays and the summer. Programs may be held on school campuses or in community-based nonprofits and faith-based settings.

OST programs keep students safe while parents are at work and enable students to develop new skills under the supervision of caring adult role models.

Some programs focus on a specific activity such as arts and crafts, tennis, music, math or science. Others offer a broader range of activities that may include “homework help” along with opportunities for career exploration, character development, civic engagement, community service and physical activity.

OST AND POSITIVE YOUTH OUTCOMES

OST programs are associated with improved academic achievement, school attendance, behavior and other positive youth outcomes when:

- Student participation is frequent and sustained.
- Activities are intentional, organized, engaging and targeted toward specific outcomes.
- Staff are trained and well-prepared.
- Partnerships with families, schools and other community institutions are developed and leveraged.

OST AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

For middle school students, OST programs offer structured activities at a time when youth are transitioning away from elementary school, but still need caring adult role models. OST programs can:

- Help students navigate the transition to middle school and prepare them for high school and career
- Encourage student engagement at a time when students often begin to disengage
- Enable middle students to interact with positive peer and adult role models
- Limit involvement in risky behaviors and decrease the rate of juvenile crime

NONPROFIT AGENCIES OFFERING OST PROGRAMS IN BEXAR COUNTY

American Indians in Texas – <http://aitscm.org/>

Good Samaritan Community Services – <http://www.goodsamaritancommunityservices.org>

YMCA of Greater San Antonio - <http://www.ymcasatx.org>

SAN ANTONIO AREA FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION INITIATIVE

The San Antonio Area Foundation is committed to increasing the high school graduation rate in Bexar County. Our High School Completion initiative awards grants to nonprofit organizations providing OST programs for Bexar County students in the 6th through 9th grades that:

- Address and improve at least one of the three dropout indicators – attendance, behavior or course grades
- Enable students to hold leadership roles or that engage families in participation
- Have a relationship with a public school

In addition, the Area Foundation builds the capacity of OST programs through training and technical assistance, convenes stakeholders, engages donors and commissions research to strengthen grantmaking.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Afterschool Alliance - <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/>

Alliance for Excellent Education – <http://www.all4ed.org/>

Excel Beyond the Bell SA – <http://beyondthebellsa.org/>

Everyone Graduates Center - <http://new.every1graduates.org/>

Harvard Family Research Project – <http://www.hfrp.org/>

National AfterSchool Association - <http://www.naaweb.org/default.asp?contentID=609>

National Institute for Out-of-School Time (NIOST) - <http://www.niost.org/>

Texas Afterschool Association - www.txafterschool.org

Texas Partnership for Out of School Time (TXPOST) - <http://www.txpost.org/>

The Wallace Foundation -
<http://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/after-school/Pages/default.aspx>

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