Workforce Readiness and Afterschool Network Leads Survey Summary
Survey Highlights

• Questions asked about value of afterschool programs in preparing students for today and tomorrow’s workforce

• Administered to Afterschool Network Leads—unique panel of experts with connectivity to program directors, school districts, business/industry, departments of education, and policymakers

• Survey utilized comprehensive skills list from the National Network of Business and Industry Associations along with additional skills from other nationally-regarded publications.

• Administered during summer of 2016

• 37 of 50 Network Leads participated (74% response rate)
Top Ten Skills Developed By Afterschool

- Integrity
- Initiative
- Adaptability
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Respect
- Problem Solving
- Self-Confidence
- Critical Thinking
- Self-Discipline

50%+ respondents indicated afterschool programs help students develop the skill A LOT (other choices were SOME and NOT AT ALL)
Top Five Skills Developed By Afterschool

- Teamwork
- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Self-Confidence
- Critical Thinking

Respondents were asked to select TWO skills that they thought were best developed in afterschool programs.
87% report that afterschool programs help develop **SELF-CONFIDENCE** in students **A LOT**; 13% report that it does **SOME**.
Self-Confidence

• Most frequent ways afterschool helps develop self-confidence:
  • Provide opportunities to try new things
  • Provide opportunities to excel and perform

• Specific activities that help develop self-confidence:
  • Programs that allow choice
  • STEM/Robotics
  • Student Leadership/Government
57% report that afterschool programs help develop **CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS** in students **A LOT**; 35% report that it does **SOME**.
Critical Thinking

• Most frequent ways afterschool helps develops critical thinking:
  • Provides opportunities to share opinions
  • Provides opportunities to inquire about topics of interest
  • Provide opportunities to problem solve

• Specific afterschool activities that help develop critical thinking:
  • Reflection
  • Discussion
  • Argumentative essays
89% report that afterschool programs help develop **TEAMWORK SKILLS** in students **A LOT**; 11% report that it does **SOME**.
Teamwork Skills

• Most frequent ways afterschool helps develops teamwork skills:
  • Provides opportunities to work on projects in groups
  • Provides opportunities to solve problems as teams

• Specific afterschool activities that help develop teamwork skills:
  • Robotics
  • Sports
  • STEM
61% report that afterschool programs help develop **PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS** in students **A LOT**; 33% report that it does **SOME**.
Problem Solving Skills

• Most frequent ways afterschool helps develops **problem solving skills**:  
  • Provides opportunities to identify problems that are solvable  
  • Provides opportunities to strategize  

• Specific afterschool activities that help develop **problem solving skills**:  
  • STEM/Robotics  
  • Clubs (i.e. Adventure, Photography, Cooking, and Gardening)
81% report that afterschool programs help develop **COMMUNICATION SKILLS** in students **A LOT**; 19% report that it does **SOME**.
Communication Skills

• Most frequent ways afterschool helps develop communication skills:
  • Provide opportunities to give presentations
  • Provide opportunities to develop writing skills

• Specific afterschool activities that help develop communication skills:
  • Clubs (i.e. Theater, Debate, Technology, and Book)
  • Arts performances
  • Public speaking
Other Findings

• Respondents also indicate that participation in afterschool programs helps students improve outcomes such as attendance, behavior, and academic performance.

• The next slide lists these outcomes and the degree to which respondents agree with the impact of afterschool programs.
Afterschool programs help reduce absences, increase on-time grade progression, increase GPAs, improve classroom behavior, and reduce suspensions/expulsions.

- **Reduce classroom absences during the school day:** 98% Yes, 2% Unsure, 0% No
- **Increase on-time grade progression:** 91% Yes, 9% Unsure, 0% No
- **Increase in-school GPAs:** 82% Yes, 18% Unsure, 0% No
- **Improve behavior in the classroom:** 98% Yes, 2% Unsure, 0% No
- **Reduce suspensions and expulsions:** 98% Yes, 2% Unsure, 0% No