

Intersection of the Six Tenets of *AQuESTT* and Nebraska 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program



STUDENT SUCCESS AND ACCESS



Positive Partnerships, Relationships and Student Success

21st CCLC programs are implemented through a strong foundation of positive partnerships between formal and informal educators, families, community organizations, and local businesses. Through these partnerships, students are provided with hands-on, enriching learning opportunities afterschool, on non-school days, and during the summer that are aligned to, and reinforce school day learning objectives.

21st CCLC program indicators:

- Local, regional, and state-wide partnerships bring unique learning opportunities to students
- Student voice and choice leads to more engagement and deeper learning
- Alternative space for learning meets diverse student needs and interests
- Interactions between school day and afterschool educators, families, community partners, and local businesses enhance student learning
- Diverse, prepared staff form relationships with students and families across calendar years
- Variety of leadership, partnerships, and service learning opportunities support positive youth development



Transitions

21st CCLC programs provide students with transitional support from school year to school year, and during the summer. Because students are provided with opportunities to attend programs each school year, and the summers in-between, students are intentionally provided with support during key transitional periods. Program staff, school day staff, older students, families, and community members work together to provide orientation, mentoring, and programming that prepares students for the next phase of their educational experience.

21st CCLC program indicators:

- Continuity of program staff who remain with students from school year to school year and during the summer
- Experiences that develop skills needed for successful transitions (e.g., entering kindergarten, across grades, across buildings)
- Orientation and mentoring opportunities across all grade levels and throughout the summer
- Assistance for families as they support children and youth transitions



Educational Opportunities and Access

21st CCLC programs provide students who may benefit from additional educational support time to learn outside the regular school day through engagement in student-centered opportunities aligned to school day learning objectives. Through partnerships with formal educators, families, and community organizations, students are allowed unique opportunities for community engagement, college and career exploration, homework support, activities that promote physical well-being, and social emotional development.

21st CCLC program indicators:

- Collaboration through regular communication between school day and afterschool educators
- Opportunity to learn in a different way through expanded, student-centered learning projects
- Application of skills learned during the school day through integrated projects
- Additional learning time and support
- Students allowed a voice in program planning and choice of activities offered, which can lead to a more engaged learner

TEACHING AND LEARNING



College and Career Ready

21st CCLC programs provide time outside of the regular school day for students to connect in meaningful ways with local business and industry, colleges, school day educators, and program staff to develop interests and skills for future success.

21st CCLC program indicators:

- Collaborations with colleges and universities to develop interest in and awareness of postsecondary educational opportunities
- Collaborations with local businesses to develop interests and skills necessary for future careers
- Provide activities that develop career ready skills such as collaboration, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity
- Provide activities that align to relevant career pathways



Assessment

21st CCLC programs employ sound data collection and management practices focused on the Continuous Improvement Process. Frequent formal and informal assessments (both internal and external) allow program staff to know students not only as learners but as individuals. Assessments provide regular feedback on program quality from students, school day partners, and families for ongoing program improvement.

21st CCLC program indicators:

- Focus on continuous improvement
- Data contributes to knowing the whole child
- Data collection opportunities allow feedback from formal and informal educators, students, families to guide program improvement
- Data used to guide ongoing staff professional development
- Data collected informs not only 21st CCLC program staff, but also school day educators in knowing students and families more holistically



Educator Effectiveness

21st CCLC programs employ both formal and informal educators who partner to provide additional learning time for students who may benefit from added educational supports. Ongoing professional development is provided to develop skills, knowledge, and support to grow positive relationships with students, families, and community partners. The overall diversity of staff reflects the cultures of families attending the school and serve as models and mentors for students.

21st CCLC program indicators:

- Professional development supports planning and implementing student-centered, experiential learning opportunities
- Ongoing shared professional development (e.g., school day staff, afterschool staff, volunteers, community partners)
- Support to develop quality relationships with students for more engaged learning
- Leadership development of both program staff and students
- Continuity in program staff, volunteers, and community partners across school years and during the summer promotes high program quality



*21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) support quality expanded learning opportunities when students are not in school (afterschool, summer, and days when school is not in session). The Nebraska Department of Education administers this federally funded, competitive grant program authorized under Title IV, Part B of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

For more information about Nebraska's 21st CCLC program, visit www.education.ne.gov/21stcclc.