



How did you engage stakeholders in the process of creating statewide quality standards?

The New Mexico Out-of-School Time Network (NMOST) made a commitment to develop flexible out-of-school time guidelines designed to foster their utilization by programs of differing focus, setting, community context, size, and capacity. Taking into account New Mexico's unique characteristics, including a large rural population, multiple native tribes and pueblos, and increased immigration, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED), in conjunction with NMOST, spent five years working with out-of-school time (OST) providers, families, and education experts to develop Guiding Principles for quality out-of-school time in New Mexico. The development process included content experts and local stakeholders to ensure that each standard meets the following research-based quality conditions: relatable to any size or type of program, developmentally appropriate, culturally proficient, positive youth development focused, and aligned with community development strategies.

NMOST chose to develop voluntary Guiding Principles, as opposed to standards, to create a culture and a belief in quality as the right thing to do for our community rather than as a requirement to be met. The Guiding Principles are not about compliance or judgment of programs but about high-yield practices that result in positive outcomes for youth.

NMOST finalized the Guiding Principles in 2016 and promoted the guidelines on our website and the NMPED site, through newsletters, and at our annual *Fall into Place* conference. The Guiding Principles will serve as a guidepost for all future professional development of OST staff.



May Sagbakken

New Mexico Out-of-School
Time Network



What advice do you have for other states before they start to develop or implement their own quality standards?

Make a decision as to whether or not you want your standards to be voluntary. Make time to discuss cultural competency and diversity, and include training for your planning committee, if needed. Identify trainers in your network who can provide professional development in the various content areas.



What challenges did you encounter and how did you overcome them?

Our main challenge involves implementation of the Guiding Principles. We are in the process of establishing a system for providers to commit to and be recognized for enhancing the quality of their programs. NMOST is also developing tools and training to go with the

Please share your thoughts with us via e-mail at SANSupport@air.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Guiding Principles. Our second challenge is lack of capacity. NMOST does not have full-time staff to guide and support OST providers throughout the state. With our new fiscal sponsor and full-time executive director, NMOST hopes to raise the funds necessary to increase capacity moving forward.



What successes are you most proud of?

Our main accomplishments are reaching agreement on the final content and format of the Guiding Principles and their successful dissemination through our website, newsletters, and the annual conference. Our newsletter and e-blast reports have demonstrated that our mailing list members have the most interest in news items related to the Guiding Principles. Our continued partnership with NMPED is essential to connect the Guiding Principles to 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and OST programs across the state, and this partnership remains strong as we are moving forward.



Who did you work with to create your quality standards?

- ABC Community School Partnership
- Albuquerque Public Schools
- Appletree Education T or C
- Bernalillo County Parks and Recreation
- Boys & Girls Club
- Children's Choice
- Explora Science Museum
- Farmington Public Library
- 4-H
- New Mexico Afterschool Providers
- New Mexico Children, Youth and Families Department
- New Mexico PTA
- New Mexico Public Education Department
- NM Voices for Children
- PBS
- Rio Grande Education Cooperative
- Santa Fe Public Schools
- State- and National-Level Education Experts
- United Way of New Mexico
- University of New Mexico Health Services
- YMCA