

# Afterschool Accreditation Supports Quality Improvement and Recognition: A Joint Statement on the Transition and Continuation of Afterschool Accreditation

Dear Colleague:

Providing programs and organizations that offer afterschool programming with a roadmap to and mechanism for the recognition of quality is as important now as it has ever been. It is in recognition of the important role that program quality plays in creating environments in which children and youth learn and thrive that the [National Afterschool Association](#) (NAA) and the [Council on Accreditation](#) (COA) are joining together to affirm the continuation of afterschool accreditation among COA's portfolio of accreditation programs.

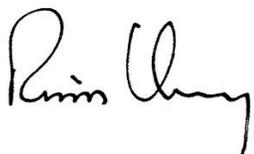
In 2008, building on NAA's accreditation process and quality standards and COA's accreditation of afterschool programs, NAA and COA collaborated to develop a comprehensive set of afterschool standards with the participation of experts from the field. At the conclusion of that work, COA assumed responsibility for administering the accreditation of the programs previously accredited by NAA and new programs seeking afterschool accreditation. Since that time, COA has expanded its offerings to include the accreditation of early childhood education programs and youth development programs. COA's accreditation of afterschool programs is endorsed by the NAA and NAA remains engaged with COA in an advisory capacity and has been a critical partner in successive updates to COA's standards for afterschool programs.

Reflecting on NAA's partnership with COA, Gina Warner, NAA's President and CEO, noted, "Research shows that high-quality afterschool programs – led and staffed by knowledgeable and competent professionals – result in positive youth outcomes. NAA looks forward to continuing our partnership with COA to jointly encourage and recognize the high-quality programs that contribute to the development of young people. Partnering with COA to provide program accreditation, not only benefits our members, but it benefits all, by strengthening the field of afterschool."

Richard Klarberg, COA's President and CEO, said, "Since 1977, COA's work has been to use accreditation as a tool to help human service organizations improve the way that they deliver their services to some of this nation's most vulnerable populations – and among those populations, children and youth take center stage. COA is proud to have NAA as a partner and to have had the opportunity to add afterschool accreditation to our portfolio of accreditation options."

For more information about COA, having your program or organization accredited, or how to denote COA's afterschool accreditation in your state's quality rating and improvement system, please contact L. Kimo Richardson, Director of Child and Youth Development Accreditation, at [krichardson@coanet.org](mailto:krichardson@coanet.org) or 212-797-3000 ext. 247.

For more information about NAA, please contact [info@naaweb.org](mailto:info@naaweb.org).



Richard Klarberg  
President and CEO, Council on Accreditation



Gina Warner  
President and CEO, National Afterschool Association

