

Louisiana Department of Education 21st Century After School Programs

Evaluation Report for School Year 2019-20

Submitted by:

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Introduction

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) received funds to provide oversight to subgrantees offering after school services to students during the 2019-20 school year through the federally funded 21st Century grant. Thirty-nine programs originally received grants to provide services. All programs attended the orientation provided by LDOE in fall 2019. The programs were scheduled to begin providing services to students in September and used the time after the Orientation to plan, recruit, and begin implementation. Due to unstable enrollment when threats of Covid-19 began in early 2020, programs were unable to continue providing services. Effective Monday, March 16, 2020, all public schools in the State of Louisiana closed facilities to students until April 13, 2020. At this time programs were also advised to close.

Evaluation Design

The evaluation design was designed to collect data as in prior years and was based on a cross-sectional design, using descriptive program and participant data provided by the LDOE. However, due to Covid-19 data on academics and attendance were not collected for the 2019-20 school year. These data would have been utilized to assess program impact outlined in the Louisiana Afterschool Framework to evaluate after-school programs.

Methods

Data Sources

Two data sources were intended for use to calculate the points for English Language Arts and Math: 1) the statewide Student Information System (SIS) (academic performance data for English Language Arts (ELA) and Math) and 2) the Youth Services database (information on attendance, type of program activities, and content areas). In 2014-15 LDOE created three new Stakeholder Satisfaction Surveys for students, staff and parents that were administered by a small sample of programs as a pilot test. The new Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey results were administered to provide data for the 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 school year reports. The evaluation design for the 2019-20 school year would have included data from these satisfaction surveys as well. However, on March 20, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education approved Louisiana's waiver of request of assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by The Every Student Succeeds Act. Additionally, Act 53 of the 2020 Second Extraordinary Session states that for the 2020-2021 school year, value-added data shall not be used to evaluate teacher performance of effectiveness. As a result of both measures, Spring 2020 assessment did not occur and 2019-2020 VAM results were not calculated.

LDOE Framework

The Framework used for prior years beginning in the 2015-16 school year was also intended for use to assess provider performance for the 2019-20 school year. The Framework assigns letter grades based on the total number of points accumulated in all three areas: 1) academic performance; 2) program attendance; and, 3) stakeholder satisfaction. Programs with a grade of D or F are

required to provide a Program Improvement Plan within 30 days of receiving the designation. The ability to apply for future funding is dependent upon the extent to which programs address the deficiencies. However, due to Covid-19 these data were not available to plug into the Framework to determine grades.