

Success Story Gathering Template

The Mississippi Statewide Afterschool Network works to communicate the value and importance of afterschool and summer programs. The most powerful stories are those that come directly from program providers and focus on children and families who participate. This template serves as an easy guide for gathering stories that showcase how afterschool and summer programs offer fun, creative experiences that get kids excited about learning and spark their interest in future careers. We're building a collection of compelling stories to share with policymakers and other stakeholders in Mississippi, in our print or digital materials, and on our website or blog. We will let you know before publishing your piece. Please read the instructions carefully before submitting your story.

How to Submit a Success Story

Step 1 – Save this template on your computer.

Step 2 – Complete the template.

Step 3 – Save the completed template and send it as an attachment with related photo(s) to Amber May at amay@msafterschool.org Guidance about photos is provided at the end of this document.

Basic Information:

Program Name:

Number of Youth Served:

Ages of Kids Served:

Grades of Kids Served:

Program Contact Person:

Program Contact Email Address:

Program Contact Phone Number:

Program Website (if applicable) and any social media platforms:

Types of Activities Offered: (please be specific and avoid jargon, for example: use 'step dancing' or 'mural design and painting' or 'junior robotics league'—not 'art/music programs' or 'science activities')

Creating Your Success Story:

First:

Think about the ways your program helps kids learn and grow. Does it help them get more interested and engaged in school, improve their grades, try new things, discover new talents, or develop skills that will help them land their first job?

Then:

Answer two or three questions below. Include details that will help others visualize activities kids are engaged in and understand how those experiences impact kids, their families, schools, and the community. It may be helpful to have a specific child or family in mind as you're describing experiences and impact.

Finally:

If possible, include a compelling quote from a child, parent, teacher, principal or staff member that supports your response (along with name and age of student quoted or name of parent, or name/title if quote is from someone else).

Can you think of an example of a student or set of students:

- whose grades have improved due to the program?
- who have had future career interest sparked in STEM, the arts, business, etc.?
- who are more excited about learning?

(Pick one and describe what the program did and how the student(s) responded)

Describe 2-3 activities your program offers that complement school-day learning or are very different from typical school day (e.g., building and flying drones or performing at a local community center).

How does your program help to close the opportunity gap between racial, community, or gender groups? Please be as specific as possible about a change or difference or impact on specific kids and families.

How does your program spark greater interest in school-day subjects or give kids choices and freedom to explore topics more deeply or try new things?

Describe, in detail, how your program is helping to inspire kids about future career possibilities.

Describe 2-3 activities your program offers that help kids develop skills they need to land their first job, including teamwork, communication, responsibility, leadership, or problem solving.

QUOTE:

Photos: Please submit high resolution digital photos that feature kids working with other kids or an adult or kids actively participating in hands-on learning or physical activity. All children/adults featured in the photos must have a signed photo release on file with your program. The release should give approval for the photos to be used on non-commercial websites like the Mississippi Statewide Afterschool Network website. If needed, providers may request and use the Afterschool Alliance photo release. Provide descriptions of the activity in the photo so captions can be created if necessary. Preferable file formats for photos are .jpg or .png.