



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

Between 2008 and 2009, The Utah Afterschool Network (UAN) convened a UAN Quality Task Force as a result of a strategic planning event in which 41 leaders representing state agencies, the governor's office, community-based organizations, afterschool programs, higher education, teachers, and the parent-teacher association identified the need for improved quality support measures in the state.

The Quality Task Force consisted of a similar but small group with wide-ranging experience and backgrounds to develop the tool.

In all, 127 afterschool programs from throughout the state participated in a pilot during the 2008–09 school year. After revisions, the tool was implemented statewide for the 2009–10 school year.



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

Learn from existing systems before you develop something new internally. Several states now have very robust quality standards.

When convening committees and workgroups, establish very clear roles, boundaries, and expectations for specific work to be completed and a clear end date. We have found some workgroups in the past have had never-ending tasks and ideas to perpetually improve quality for the foreseeable future.



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

There was a good deal of conversation around specific quality indicators and how they were worded. Compromises were found through additional research of best practices and consultation.

At the time the quality tool was launched, UAN's website had very limited capacity to properly give statewide access that was easily navigated to the quality tool.



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



What successes are you most proud of?

The quality tool has been adopted by two state agencies that provide funding to the majority of programs throughout the state as a mandatory internal quality assessment.

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the four quality areas in the tool became state rule.



Who did you work with to create your quality standards?

The State Board of Education, The Department of Workforce Services, Office of Child Care, the Utah Education Policy Center, and numerous private child care providers, afterschool providers, and teachers.