

# Michigan School-Age Youth Development Certificate and Credential Program

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## 10 CORE KNOWLEDGE CONTENT AREAS

National AfterSchool Association (NAA), Core Knowledge and Competencies for Afterschool and Youth Development Professionals (September, 2011).

The complete document can be found on the NAA website: <http://naaweb.org/resources/core-competencies>

### **1. CHILD/YOUTH GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Knows the typical benchmarks of growth and development and uses this knowledge to provide a program that meets the multiple needs of children and youth.

### **2. LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AND CURRICULUM**

Creates a high-quality learning environment and implements age-appropriate curricula and program activities.

### **3. CHILD/YOUTH OBSERVATION AND ASSESSMENT**

Understands and applies observation and assessment techniques and tools to meet individual needs.

### **4. INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Recognizes the importance of relationships and communication in the practice of quality child and youth care, and implements guidance techniques and strategies to support children and youth individually and in group experiences to develop self-regulation, self-concept, coping mechanisms, and positive interactions with their peers and adults.

### **5. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**

Acts in partnership with children and youth to foster appropriate child and youth leadership and voice.

### **6. CULTURAL COMPETENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS**

Actively promotes respect for cultural diversity and creates an inclusive, welcoming, and respectful environment that embraces diversity.

### **7. FAMILY, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS**

Builds on respectful, reciprocal relationships across settings to promote optimal development for children, youth, and families and to enhance the quality of afterschool and youth development services.

### **8. SAFETY AND WELLNESS**

Ensures the safety and wellness of children and youth by implementing prevention, preparedness, and health and safety practices.

### **9. PROGRAM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Supports staff and serves as a role model around professional development plans by building healthy relationships with colleagues and families, providing developmentally appropriate practices, and connecting with and utilizing resources.

### **10. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

Acts ethically, is committed to continuous learning, and advocates for best practices and policies for children and youth.