

What's New in Research May 2010

The Report: "Out-of-School Time: Leveraging Higher Education for Quality"

Where It's From: The After-School Corporation (TASC), Foundations, and Atlantic Philanthropies, February 2010

The Findings: This paper looks at the connections between out-of-school time (OST) and institutions of higher education (IHEs). As the national focus has increased on OST as a place where students can receive academic support, engage in project-based learning, and receive other needed services, the quality of OST programs has become even more important. Based on a series of meetings, this paper examines how OST and IHEs can better collaborate and link around credentialing, professional development, opportunities for student-teaching and practice, and more – all in an effort to improve the quality of OST staff and programs.

Some Specifics:

- The skills needed by OST staff are not identical to those needed by teachers, and thus are not covered in traditional teacher training programs.
- Credit-bearing courses related to OST and other certification and credentialing systems out of IHEs will help build an OST career pathway.
- OST programs offer IHEs a place for students to intern, learn, and conduct research.
- Promising practices in IHE coursework related to OST include flexible schedules, online courses or segments, practicums, learning cohorts, and collaboration among various departments/faculty members.
- Many questions remain about the best method of implementing OST and IHE partnerships; the value of certification/credentialing; the acceptable costs; and more.

The Full Report Is Available At: <http://www.tascorp.org/content/document/detail/2882/>

The Report: "Six Steps to Successfully Scale Impact in the Nonprofit Sector"

Where It's From: Harvard Family Research Project, *Evaluation Exchange*, Spring 2010

The Findings: The Spring, 2010 issue of the *Evaluation Exchange* focuses entirely on scale in the nonprofit sector. This article examines why some programs successfully go to scale, and others do not. The six steps are listed below, and are explained in much more detail in the article itself.

Some Specifics:

- Step One: Determine whether the intervention is ready to go to scale.
- Step Two: Select the best approach to bring the intervention to scale.
- Step Three: Select sites that are best suited to the intervention.
- Step Four: Develop the capacity and infrastructure to manage multiple sites.
- Step Five: Evaluate the scaling process.
- Step Six: Share promising practices and lessons about scale with other nonprofits.

The Full Report Is Available At: <http://www.hfrp.org/evaluation/the-evaluation-exchange/current-issue-scaling-impact>