

Champs Academic Enrichment Initiative

The Champs academic enrichment initiative strives to set the standard of how kids learn in afterschool by providing a comprehensive academic enrichment component to 43 afterschool programs in Palm Beach County, Florida. The Champs model promotes promising practices in afterschool through the collaboration and partnerships efforts of several different types of after school settings from community based organizations, to school based sites and Beacon centers. Currently, Champs serves approximately 3,800 children in grades K-5 and awards scholarships to 110 students in order for them to participate in the School District's School Age Child Care Program.

The Champs Initiative supports ways to activate student learning through an engaging, interactive, thematic based academic enrichment model. This innovative model targets the academic needs of students with a nationally recognized afterschool curriculum from Foundations, Inc. The curriculum is the core of Champs and through training, coaching, and modeling, key afterschool staff members are able to support children's learning by blending math and reading content into an experiential, hands on, afterschool friendly learning approach.

The Champs administrative team, made up of program specialists, uses an in-depth approach to training the existing afterschool staff in "best teaching practices". All afterschool staff members who are trained to deliver the curriculum receive a stipend for this additional responsibility. The Champs model also provides an onsite educator or Head Teacher to each participating program and through their instructional expertise the staff is successful in implementing the academic components of the curriculum. The Champs Program Specialists provide coordination, specialized training and technical assistance to the programs on an ongoing basis.

Champs has been rigorously evaluated annually and has received national recognition from educators as a model of effective and cost-efficient afterschool learning. Champs not only has shown increases in achievement levels of students who participate in the program but has also shown to improve the overall professionalism of afterschool staff who are trained in the model. The Champs academic partnership is proud of its award winning collaboration with the Palm Beach County School District as it is considered to be a promising practice in the field of afterschool programming. Champs is funded by Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, the Picower Foundation, and PrimeTime of Palm Beach County.

Purpose, Goals, and Outcome Objectives

To add an academic enrichment component to 43 after school sites in Palm Beach County, Florida, serving approximately 3800 students in grades K-5

- To increase after school staff skills in facilitating academic enrichment curriculum, and
- To increase the academic achievement of students who participate in the Champs initiative

Findings:

- Champs increases the achievement levels of African American, Free/Reduced Lunch and LEP students in Math and Reading.
- Champs has a positive impact on the academic achievement levels for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.
- Champs raises the level of professionalism of the after school staff.
- Afterschool programs with Champs demonstrate an increase in overall program quality.

Instructor Goals:

- Instructors provide atmosphere that allows kids to learn in new ways
- Instructors push kids beyond their comfort zones
- Instructors link and connect lessons back to the school day
- Instructors connect existing skills and interests to new challenges
- Instructors create cooperative learning environments
- Instructors facilitate an interactive and experiential learning environment

Student Outcomes:

1. Academic

- Students demonstrate new knowledge in content areas.
- Students' FCAT/SRI test scores increase.
- Students demonstrate enthusiasm for learning
- Students interests increase in due to enrichment activities

2. Social-Emotional (affective)

- Instructors report improved student attitudes toward school and the Champs initiative
- Students and instructors demonstrate improved instructor-student relations
- Students improve attitudes and self-esteem
- Students increase self-expectation of learning and growth

Appendix B – Program Description and Approved Deliverables

- Students improve problem-solving skills
- Students improve academic and personal self-confidence
- Students develop future orientation and higher aspirations
- Students' behavioral referrals are reduced

3. Skill Building

- Students build new skills
- Students attempt and learn skills outside their comfort zones

Champs Programmatic Deliverables

- Provide academic enrichment to approximately 3800 students for one hour per day, 4 days per week for 32 weeks.
- Provide 190 sets of complete curriculum and any other Champs supplemental materials developed by the Champs program specialists team to all 43 sites. (District)
- Provide a Champs policies and procedures manual to each participating site to outline site responsibilities, job descriptions, roles, and Champs model expectations. (District)
- Provide training twice a year for 190 instructors, 43 head teachers, 43 directors and approximately 86 substitute instructors. This staff development piece will be conducted by the Champs team and will focus on our model, specific policies & procedures, current best practices in teaching field, collaborative team planning, cooperative learning and Champs curriculum instructional strategies. (District)
- Provide Point Person in the Department of Afterschool Programming for oversight of project (partial funding to District from agreement budget = \$36,000)
- Provide three Champs Program Specialists (District new hire total will equal 2 District instructional specialists and one consultant) for technical assistance, onsite training, observing, monitoring, program evaluation and any site specific troubleshooting. (District)
- Provide a Program Director to coordinate implementation of the Champs initiative in 43 site/schools and to oversee coordination and collaboration of all participating agencies. (PrimeTime responsibility for this consultant)
- Provide a Certified Academic Advisor onsite daily for coaching, modeling of the instructors and planning of the curriculum. (District)
- Provide quality assurance measures in order to maintain the integrity of the Champs model through an evaluation process of instructors and head teachers. An annual review of the Academic Advisor Portfolio, mandatory quarterly surveys and curriculum feedback tools will help target issues for overall initiative improvement. (District/PrimeTime joint responsibility)

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- Provide curriculum support to ensure the consistency across all sites in implementation of the curriculum.
- Provide stipends paid directly to program staff (director, instructor and substitute instructors) for training and implementation of the Champs curriculum. (PrimeTime responsibility)
- Provide scholarships for 119 full time scholarships for students to be enrolled in the School Age Child Care Program in order to participate in the Champs component. (District)

Site-Based Deliverables

- Curriculum (Each trained Champs instructor receives a manual and set of books)
- Afterschool staff that implement Champs will be trained as a Champs instructor and will implement the curriculum one hour a day four days a week for 32 weeks
- Budget (\$6,600) for a trained Champs Head Teacher to provide daily oversight of curriculum implementation (2 hours per day- 1 hour instructor observations/ 1 hour planning for 32 weeks)
- An Area Program Specialist to provide on-site technical assistance and quality assurance which includes resources and strategies for curriculum implementation
- Instructor stipends twice annually for implementing the curriculum
Training Stipends for attending mandatory Champs training twice annually
- Site Director training and stipend for overseeing the Champs model at the afterschool site
- An independent evaluator to collect and analyze data for Champs initiative
- Consumable money \$300 per group to be spent on consumable items for implementation of culminating projects and daily Champs lessons