

Afterschool Pathways Fact Sheet

Who Are Afterschool Professionals?

If you work within a program that serves school-age children and youth between the ages of 5-18 years, outside of school hours, you are recognized as an Afterschool Professional. The afterschool field is diverse – volunteers, high school students, social workers, educators, artists, community members, sports coaches, and others work for family child care providers, community-based centers, schools, youth centers, recreation programs, and more.

Pathways for Afterschool Professionals

Vermont's professional development system is organized into Core Knowledge Areas for Afterschool Professionals which frame the standards of the field:

- Child and Youth Development
- Families and Communities
- Curriculum and Learning Environments
- Health and Safety
- Professionalism and Program Organization

Each Core Knowledge Area includes various competencies; the Core Competencies for Afterschool Professionals can be used as a self-assessment, or as a tool for job descriptions or staff development. Afterschool professionals may receive certificates and credentials recognizing when they achieve these competencies in afterschool services.

Certificates and Credentials for Afterschool Professionals

As an afterschool professional, you may receive certificates and credentials recognizing your achievements by applying and documenting your professional experience, training, and education. Application forms are available at northernlightsccv.org.

AFTERSCHOOL FOUNDATIONS CERTIFICATE

- 16 total hours of training across the 5 Core Knowledge Areas
- Your Individual professional Development Plan (IPDP) written or updated within the last three months

AFTERSCHOOL ESSENTIALS CERTIFICATE*

The Afterschool Essentials course is offered by Vermont Afterschool. You will complete the course with a group, over a year to meet the following requirements. Contact Vermont Afterschool to enroll.

- Youth Development Institute (YDI) online modules
- 4 identified ISS-AP (Vermont Afterschool) training days
- A 6-hour Basic Specialized Care course
- 5 hours of training in a concentration area
- Formal Observation

- Your Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP), written or updated within the last three months
- Additional planned workshops

AFTERSCHOOL PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL*

This Credential demonstrates higher level Competencies and development through college coursework and the independent development of your professional portfolio.

- 3 years working as a program director or in other leadership capacity
- Completion of two free courses (3 credits each) offered through the Community College of Vermont:
- Introduction to Afterschool Education and Care
- Special Topics in Education: Development of the School Age Child
- Additional training hours across the 5 Core Knowledge Areas
- Professional Portfolio

PROGRAM DIRECTOR CREDENTIAL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD AND AFTERSCHOOL DIRECTORS*

A series of seven college courses or their equivalent, and a professional portfolio documenting achievement of Program Director Competencies:

- 9 credits of college coursework that demonstrate proficiency in Core Knowledge Areas of Child Development, Curriculum, Program Management
- 9 credits of college coursework that demonstrate proficiency in Core Knowledge Areas of Leadership, Mentoring, Supervision, Human Resources Management, Legal and Financial Issues
- Complete the Culminating Seminar course
- Approved professional portfolio*

*A Recognition Bonus is available from the Child Development Division or VT Afterschool, Inc. when additional requirements are met.