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## National AfterSchool Association Accreditation Standards

The National AfterSchool Association has developed six standards for quality school – age care. Two of those standards, Human Relationships and Administration, offer “keys” to quality that support family engagement. Key 7 represents concrete things that everyone should be able see happening in an afterschool program while keys 23, 24, 25, and 36 describe the policies and “behind-the-scenes” practices that are the foundation of a quality afterschool program.

### Standard: Human Relationships

#### Key 7 - Staff and Families Interact with Each Other in Positive Ways

- A. *Staff make families feel welcome and comfortable.*
- B. *Staff and families treat each other with respect.*
- C. *Staff share the languages and cultures of the families they serve, and the communities they live in.*
- D. *Staff and families work together to make arrivals and departures between home and child care go smoothly.*

### Standard: Administration

#### Key 23 - Support Families’ Involvement in the Program

- A. *There is a policy that allows family members to visit any time throughout the day.*
- B. *Staff offer orientation session for new families.*
- C. *Staff keep families informed about the program.*
- D. *Staff encourage families to give input and to get involved in program events.*

#### Key 24 - Staff, Families, & Schools Share Important Information to Support the Well-being of Children and Youth

- A. *Program policies require that staff and family members communicate about the child’s well-being.*
- B. *Staff, families, and schools work together as a team to set goals for each child; they work with outside specialists when necessary.*
- C. *Staff and families share information about how to support children’s development.*
- D. *Staff and families join together to communication and work with the schools.*

**Key 25 - The Program Builds Links to the Community**

- A. *Staff provide information about community resources to meet the needs of children and their families.*
- B. *The program develops a list of community resources. The staff draw from these resources to expand program offerings.*
- C. *The staff plan activities to help children get to know the larger community.*
- D. *The program offers community service options, especially for older children.*

**Key 36 - Program Policies & Procedures are Responsive to Needs of Children, Youth, & Families in the Community**

- A. *A written mission statement sets forth the program's philosophy and goals.*
- B. *The program makes itself affordable to all families by using all possible community resources and sources of subsidy.*
- C. *The program's hours of operation are based on families' needs*
- D. *It is program's policy to enroll all children with special needs*

Reference:

National AfterSchool Association. (1999). *The NAA standards for quality school-age care*. Retrieved from <http://www.ohioafterschool.org/Attachments/NAA%20accreditation%20standards.pdf>