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## Connection to the School-Day Curriculum

### ❖ Why it's important:

OST programs with strong ties to the school-day program have unique advantages. These include consistent messages about schoolwork, enhanced learning opportunities for children, and increased engagement and buy-in from school staff.

### ❖ What to ask/look for:

- What linkages exist between the OST program and the school-day curriculum?
- Do teachers provide curriculum guidance for OST activities?
- Is the program (at least partially) staffed by teachers and/or school staff? Are these staff available to guide and support volunteers?

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## Consistent Programming and Attendance

### ❖ Why it's important:

Quality OST programs make students want to attend. This element can be measured through consistency of student attendance and program operations. Programs that operate at least three to four days a week have a greater impact than programs that operate less frequently. Likewise, when students attend on a regular basis, rather than sporadically, their opportunities for learning increase.

### ❖ What to ask/look for:

- Does the program operate at least three to four days a week?
- Does the program track student attendance? How is attendance encouraged?
- Does the program measure student retention? If so, what is the rate of retention?