

Create and increase the use of research-based resources that connect families, communities, and schools to increase student success.

SEDL helps bring together families, communities, and schools to support students' academic achievement. We work strategically at the federal, state and local levels to support efforts to improve quality in family engagement programs, partnerships with families, schools and communities and in expanded learning programs, such as afterschool. We lead rigorous research projects and develop and disseminate research-based resources that are focused on student success. In addition, our specialists design and conduct professional development for staff at state and district departments of education, regional service agencies, Title I programs, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLCs), and early childhood programs.

SEDL develops and disseminates the tools, resources, and professional development that family engagement and expanded learning professionals and state education agencies need to strengthen their programs in order to meet the academic, social, and physical fitness needs of students.

## National Work

### The National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools

SEDL's National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools disseminates research-based information and resources to foster connections among families, communities, and schools with the goal of improving student academic achievement.

### SEDL National Center for Quality Afterschool

Helps afterschool practitioners develop high-quality, balanced programs through research-based resources and professional development. The National Center also oversaw three randomized controlled trials evaluating the benefits of promising afterschool interventions on student achievement.

### Professional Development for 21st CCLC Grantees

SEDL also delivers professional development designed to assist 21st CCLC grantees in networking, building long-range plans for program operations and sustainability, and sharing experience and knowledge with one another.

## State Work

### Illinois Quality Afterschool Project

The Illinois Quality Afterschool Project at SEDL, funded by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) provides technical assistance and professional development to all 21 CCLC grantees in Illinois. This 5-year initiative is designed to ensure that 21st CCLC grantees receive the necessary assistance—including training, tools, resource materials, and expertise—to deliver high-quality afterschool programs that can strengthen student engagement and academic achievement.

## Products

### Family and Community Connections with Schools

#### *Toolkit: Title I Parental Involvement*

SEDL provides detailed explanations of the Title I, Part A parental involvement provisions as well as thirty-three tools to assist state departments of education, districts, and schools in meeting these requirements.

#### *Working Systemically in Action: Engaging Family & Community*

This publication provides practical guidance for educators who are seeking to engage family and community members in systemic school improvement efforts.

#### *Achieving Excellence & Innovation in Family, School, and Community Engagement*

This webinar series is an opportunity for stakeholders representing national, regional, and local organizations to learn about family, school, and community engagement research, best practices from the field, and new innovations that are making a difference in school improvement and student learning.

#### *Research Syntheses*

SEDL produced 5 research syntheses that include information about the latest research and innovative thinking about family and community connections with schools.

#### *Briefs*

Strategy briefs and interactive online briefs (English and Spanish) include information on how to effectively engage families and communities with schools to support academic achievement of students.

## Afterschool

### *Building and Managing Quality Afterschool Programs*

A Practitioner's Guide describes key practices of successful afterschool programs in academics, management and organization based on five years of research in 53 programs across the US. It includes a Quality-O-Meter and other tools to help afterschool practitioners and others reflect on the quality of their programs.

### *The Afterschool Professional Development and Instructors' Guides*

These guides help afterschool providers find high-quality materials to enrich their programs. The guides are available in the areas of science, math, and literacy, the arts, homework help and technology.