

Keeping Kids a Priority: *Because there has to be more between school and home than the streets*

Pathways to Success

Many systems of support work in tandem to lead to a successful trajectory for a child – from birth to graduation and beyond: Family, Community, Faith-Based Community, Childcare, Early Childhood and K-12 Education, and **Out-of-School Time**.

The out-of-school time (OST) field provides opportunities for youth to excel, explore, and expand their horizons before school, afterschool, on weekends and during the summer. Programs provide the critical third space for youth between school and home while parents are still at work.

Addressing Houston Needs

Investing in OST time is a key strategy for meeting the needs of our community. From growing our local talent in the effort to meet industry needs to reducing high school dropout rates in order to increase future earning potential, Houston's youth need OST opportunities. There are **over 881,000 students** in the 25 school districts **in and around Harris County** who have limited access to opportunities: **61.7% are economically disadvantaged**. Without inroads for youth engagement, many are at risk for dropping out of high school or participating in juvenile violence associated with gangs¹. Among Harris County students who started high school in 2004-05, **67% graduated high school within six years**².

Current Projects

Social Return on Investment Study

This study looked at how financial investments in local OST programs positively contribute to the Greater Houston economy by tracking 2012-13 funding streams to identify what OST dollars support in terms of employment, youth served, and services provided. The report also created a framework for projecting investments into long-term financial benefits for Houston's future.

Call to Action Tour

Last spring, members of ENRICH After School, Afterschool Community Leaders Board, and the Southeast Texas Afterschool Association met with City of Houston Council

Members and with community networks to increase the knowledge and awareness of OST programs. The ENRICH team met with Harris County Commissioners, visited local foundations to share the collective impact framework, and presented research through community presentations, webinars, and at the CASE conference.

CASE Studies on Quality



A best practice study was conducted to identify and describe strategies utilized by out-of-school-time programs operating in Harris County. The study found that exemplary sites focused on nurturing students' strengths by collaborating with families, communities, and schools, worked to increase awareness of their programs, and

implemented curriculum that offered a variety of opportunities that aligned with the students' school-day lessons.

ENRICH After School

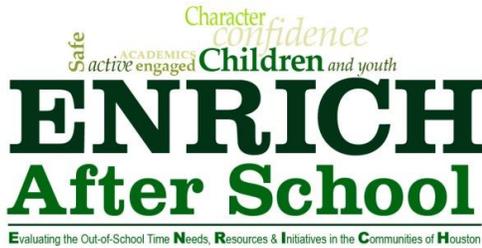
Spearheaded by City of Houston Council Members C.O. "Brad" Bradford and CASE for Kids, in 2012, ENRICH is a regional initiative to increase the understanding of Greater Houston's community needs in relation to quality OST services. Goals of the community effort were to design a research agenda, build public will, mobilize resources, and create action items.

Join the OST Movement! The [ENRICH After School webpage](#) is intended to encourage our community to show support for out-of-school time, share their stories, and become advocates in their communities.

For our formal reports inclusive of research citations, go to <http://www.afterschoolzone.org/ENRICH>

¹Growing Up in Houston 2012-2014.
http://childrenatrisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/GrowingUpinHouston_2012-2014.pdf

²Houston Police. Crime Division via Houston Chronicle, 2012.
["Gangs on the rise, but idea to fight them raises eyebrows" Edition: November 1, 2012](#)



Creating a Framework for Assessing the Social Return on Investing in Out-of-School Time Programs

2012-2013 Capstone Project
Bush School of Government and Public Service
Texas A&M University

Introduction

This study looked at how financial investments in local out-of-school time (OST) programs positively contribute to the Greater Houston economy:

- By tracking 2012-13 funding streams to identify what afterschool program dollars support in terms of employment, youth served, and services provided; and assessing how much federal and state funds are leveraged by local dollars to benefit our community.
- By creating a framework for projecting investments and how they will translate into long-term benefits for our local community based on specific areas of program impact.

The Need for OST Research

Previous research on afterschool programs enabled the benefits of this field to be made known to the public. Organizations whose missions are **to raise awareness** about the benefits of OST programs have enabled legislation **to secure additional funding** that has helped to ensure the sustainability of the OST field. In order **to increase the longevity of OST programs**, research in the forms of ROI and cost benefit analysis will aid potential investors' and supporters' understanding of the positive and long-term effects their small investments can make to society.

Return on Social Investment

Cost Analysis Identifies the current Greater Houston area financial investment in OST programs and the outputs it supports.

Cost-Benefit Analysis Examines the benefits derived from OST programs in the community.

Return on Investment Framework Tracks dollars invested into activities that do not produce a definitive financial outcome, but have social benefits to the community.

Methodology

Formulas were created through the combination of relevant and rigorous national research and program studies on specific benefits of OST programs and their related financial costs or savings. A survey was administered to 63 comprehensive after-school programs in Harris County. Of these 63, 18 responded and their data was entered into the formulas. Additional organizational information was collected as a part of the cost-analysis and used to determine what other outputs were being created from Houston's financial investment in OST programs. The 63 organizations were selected based on their registry with *CASE for Kids'* online database. Since these organizations provided before school, summer, and/or afterschool programs for a minimum of 12 hours a week, they were considered comprehensive-based programs.

Results

In 2012-2013, study participants realized an investment of **\$23.7 million** provided support to **535 out-of-school time programs** in Harris County, Texas, employing **141 full-time and 465 part-time Houstonians**, while providing activities and services to **41,367 participating youth** grades prekindergarten through 12th grade.

The **average expenditure by youth** in aggregate by attending before school, afterschool, and/or summer programs in this study is **\$572.92**. For this financial investment, research based outcomes documented by the student team, evidenced the following **returns by individual student**:

\$11,184 in savings to school districts for a child not having to repeat a grade;

\$11,830 in annual income for a high school graduate that would have otherwise dropped out; and

\$8,183 in savings to the County for the cost of a child who avoided juvenile probation.

For our formal report inclusive of research citations please contact enrichafterschool@hcde-texas.org