

**Holz, Robin [IDOE]**

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**From:** Holz, Robin [IDOE]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2015 12:24 PM  
**To:** 'cacfp\_center@lists.ed.iowa.gov'  
**Subject:** Recognizing and Promoting Successful Afterschool Programs

Dear CACFP Child Care Afterschool Care Participant:

**Note: I am unable to target only the centers that participate in afterschool care programs in the email distribution list at this time. Please disregard if it does not apply to your organization. I apologize for the inconvenience.**

**Recognizing and Promoting Successful Afterschool Programs**

Serving quality, kid-friendly food is essential to helping afterschool programs increase attendance and make children more likely to consistently participate. Many sites, however, are going beyond the minimum requirements and crafting programs that support both health and learning. Acknowledging such work with the Food Research and Action Center's (FRAC) Standards of Excellence is one way to elevate and highlight the impact of nutrition programs in your community.

FRAC developed the Standards of Excellence assessment tool to help advocates and other community leaders evaluate afterschool nutrition programs, recognize quality sites, and encourage other sites to increase the quality of food served and the site environment. The standards identify gold, silver, and bronze programs. For example, bronze summer sites are serving fresh produce throughout a two-week menu cycle, display a banner to promote the site's location, and have worked with area schools to promote the program.

Helpful Tool: [FRAC's Afterschool Meals Standards of Excellence](#)

Awarding the Standards of Excellence can be a great way to promote afterschool programs. Groups can send out press releases, host events, or do other activities to highlight sites that have achieved these awards.

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