

The Utah Afterschool Credential

Portfolio Rubric

Created 2025











Why a Credential?

This statewide credential not only sets a high standard by requiring professionals to complete 120 hours of targeted professional development and undergo rigorous observation, but it also demands a comprehensive portfolio that demonstrates their competencies across ten critical areas. By implementing such a credential, we ensure that those who are most engaged with our children are equipped with the latest skills, knowledge, and best practices in the field. This structured approach guarantees that the professionals working with kids are not only experienced, but also continuously advancing their expertise, ultimately enhancing the quality of afterschool programs and fostering better outcomes for the children they serve.

Porfolio Requirements	Complete Credential Requirements
 Authenticity Statement Professional Statement 16 Demonstrated Competencies Examples 	 120 total professional development training hours: 10 hours in EACH of the 9 required NAA CKSC areas + 30 additional hours in any CKSC area over the last 5 years logged on the Credential Training Log. All Certificates MUST be uploaded to your URPD Profile. 480 hours of work experience in a center-based or licensed, licensed-exempt school-age setting with K-12 youth listed on the Credential Work History Log. Completed, passing supervisor observation with UAN Credential Observation Tool Current NAA Membership Completed, passing portfolio More information about the NAA CKSCs can be found at https://naaweb.org/

Portfolio Rubric Disclaimers

- 1. Each activity in this portfolio is evaluated using its own rubric and must meet the minimum required score to be considered passing. Be sure to review each rubric carefully and ensure your submission aligns with the stated expectations. For those completing the portfolio as part of an UAN Afterschool Professional Development Incentive professional activity, the same rubric and requirements used for the Utah Afterschool School-Age Credential will apply.
- 2. All writing samples will be reviewed through an AI detection system. All work must be your own. If it is determined that a submission is not original or was generated using AI or other sources, no points will be awarded for that assignment.
- 3. If any part of your portfolio does not meet the minimum requirements, you will be given one opportunity to revise and resubmit. A copy of the scoring rubric will be provided to help you address the areas needing improvement. If, after the second submission, your portfolio still does not meet expectations, your application will be denied, and you must wait six months before reapplying.
- 4. You are highly encouraged to use "I" statements throughout your writing to reflect your personal growth and contributions. Your voice, experiences, and insights are essential in demonstrating your role and development as an afterschool professional.

Philosophy Statement

		Philosophy Sta	tement		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar/spelling issues hinder understanding.	Some grammar or clarity issues; generally readable.	Few grammar errors; clear and effective writing.	Polished, professional, and error-free; clear, reflective, and expressive writing.	
Formatting & Word Count	Less than 400 or more than 500 words; incorrect font or formatting.	Approaches word count; inconsistent formatting or font.	Meets 400–500 word count and formatting expectations.	Fully meets word count; uses 12 pt. font, clear formatting, and is visually clean and professional.	
Educational Philosophy & Core Beliefs	No personal beliefs or philosophy described.	General statements; lacks personal insight or connection to afterschool work.	Clear beliefs about education and afterschool's role in development are present.	Deeply personal and well- articulated philosophy with strong, thoughtful insight into the value of afterschool learning.	
Approach to Teaching & Learning	No description of strategies or practices.	Limited or vague mention of instructional approaches or child engagement.	Describes strategies for creating safe, engaging, and inclusive environments.	Provides rich examples of effective, inclusive practices that support academic, social, and emotional development.	
Professional Role & Relationships	No reflection on professional role or relationships.	Basic description of responsibilities; unclear or minimal emphasis on relationships or inclusion.	Reflects on the role of relationships and equity in professional practice.	Strong, clear narrative of how the writer builds community, promotes equity, and collaborates with families and peers.	
Reflection & Growth	No mention of professional growth or reflection.	Limited discussion of self- assessment or development.	Includes thoughtful reflection on areas of strength and growth.	Demonstrates a strong commitment to reflective practice and continuous professional development with specific goals or actions.	

Child/Youth Growth and Development

	Required Element: NAA CKSC 1 Self- Assessment						
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.			
Completion of Self-Assessment Summary	Missing or incomplete.	Provides basic summary with some relevant details.	Provides detailed and clear summary with relevant insights.	Provides comprehensive and well-organized summary with depth and clarity.			
Reflection	Incomplete or lacking depth.	Reflection present but lacks depth or specific connections.	Good reflection with clear insights and connections to practice.	Thorough and reflective analysis with deep insight into personal development.			
Professional Plan	Missing or lacks clear goals.	Contains basic goals but lacks specificity.	Clearly articulated goals with a few actionable steps.	Specific, measurable, and time-bound goals with a detailed plan for achievement.			
Action Plan	No action plan or lacks clear steps.	Action plan is present but lacks clear strategies.	Action plan with reasonable steps but may lack full clarity.	Detailed and actionable plan with clear steps to improve practice.			

Option 1: Child Development and Program Environment						
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score	
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.		
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500 words, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400-500 words, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.		
Content Understanding	Missing key developmental areas or contains major inaccuracies.	Covers some developmental areas, but missing some important details.	Covers all developmental areas with clear and accurate descriptions.	Thorough coverage of all developmental areas with clear, well-articulated explanations and examples.		
Connection to Practice	Fails to link developmental understanding to practice.		Clearly links developmental stages to design of activities with examples.	Well-developed connections between developmental areas and practical application in programming.		

Child/Youth Growth and Development

	Option 2: Development Chart and Reflection							
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score			
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.				
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500 words, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400-500 words, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.				
Chart Clarity	Chart is unclear or incomplete.	Chart is somewhat clear but lacks detail or organization.	Chart is clear with appropriate developmental areas but may lack some detail.	Chart is well-organized, clear, and includes all relevant developmental areas with sufficient detail.				
Rationale	Missing or lacks explanation.	Basic rationale for the importance of understanding development.	Good rationale explaining why developmental understanding is crucial.	Detailed and thoughtful rationale with specific examples of how it informs practice.				

Option 3: Science of Learning and Development							
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	is generally clear,	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.			
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500 words, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400-500 words, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.			
Understanding of Key Findings	Fails to describe or misunderstand key findings.	Provides basic description but lacks depth or clarity.	Clear description of two key findings with relevant details.	Deep, clear, and accurate understanding of two key findings with relevant examples.			
Connection to Practice	No connection to practice or examples.	Mentions practice but lacks clear examples.	Provides examples of practices that support the findings.	Well-developed and specific examples of practices that align with the key findings.			

Learning Environments and Curriculum

	Required Element: Lesson Plans					
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score	
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is	Few minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structured sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.		
Lesson Plan Completeness	Missing key components (e.g., goals, supplies) or incomplete	Includes all components but may lack clarity or detail	Includes all components with clear details	Detailed and thorough lesson plans with all components clearly outlined		
Relevance of Activities	Activities not relevant to youth development or program goals	Activities are relevant but not clearly tied to developmental goals	Activities are well-chosen and relevant to youth goals	Activities are highly relevant and demonstrate strong alignment with youth development principles		

		Option 1: Environmer	nt Evaluation		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar/spelling errors significantly affect clarity.	Some grammar or spelling errors; ideas are generally understandable.	Minor issues; writing is mostly clear and effectively communicates ideas.	Nearly flawless grammar and clear, concise writing that is polished and professional.	
Formatting & Word Count	Less than 400 words; unstructured and difficult to follow.	Less than 400–500 words; some structure, but formatting is inconsistent.	400–500 words; mostly well-structured and easy to follow.	400–500 words; clean formatting, well-organized, and visually easy to navigate.	
Evaluation of Physical Space	Evaluation is missing, vague, or lacks connection to the actual environment.	Some effort to evaluate the space, but lacks depth or clarity; limited insight into challenges or usage.	Clear and relevant evaluation of space use; includes challenges of shared or limited-control environments.	Comprehensive evaluation that clearly analyzes how the space is used and adapted, with strong awareness of challenges and youth needs.	
Inventory & Material Improvement Plan	Inventory missing or incomplete; no material improvements listed.	Inventory is present but lacks detail; material suggestions are vague or impractical.	Clear inventory of space/materials and at least 2–3 reasonable improvement ideas.	Detailed, realistic inventory with well-justified material upgrades that directly improve functionality and engagement.	
Visuals: Photos/ Layout/ Sketch	No visuals included.	Visuals are limited, unclear, or unrelated to the space.	Includes basic layout or photos that support understanding of the space.	Well-organized and clearly labeled photos or sketches that meaningfully enhance the written description.	

Learning Environments and Curriculum

		Option 2: You	th Survey		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasional incomplete sentences.	Few minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structured sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Formatting & Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 100-200 words, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 100-200 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 100-200 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 100-200 words, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.	
Survey Design	Survey lacks clarity, is incomplete, or not youth-friendly	Basic survey design with limited scope or clarity	Clear and appropriate survey design with relevant questions	Well-designed, clear, and youth- friendly survey with a broad scope	
Data Analysis	No meaningful analysis or unclear interpretation	Basic analysis with some understanding of key issues	Good analysis that addresses key trends or findings	In-depth analysis with clear insights and connections to program improvement	
SMART Goal	SMART goal is vague or absent	SMART goal is present but lacks clarity or specificity	SMART goal is clearly articulated but may lack depth	Clear, actionable SMART goal with detailed steps and rationale	
Rationale	Missing or lacks explanation	Basic rationale for the importance of understanding development	Good rationale explaining why developmental understanding is crucial	Detailed and thoughtful rationale with specific examples of how it informs practice	

	Option 3: Walk Through Analysis						
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, or sentence structure errors that affect clarity.	Some grammar/spelling issues; overall meaning is understandable but could be clearer.	Minor grammar/spelling issues; writing is mostly clear and well-structured.	Nearly error-free; writing is polished, professional, and easy to understand.			
Formatting & Word Count	Less than 400 words, poorly formatted, hard to read or follow.	Less than 400–500 words, inconsistent formatting, organization needs improvement.	400–500 words, mostly well-formatted and organized with clear sections.	400–500 words, clean, professional formatting, easy to read and logically organized.			
Summary of Findings	Summary is missing, incomplete, or lacks clarity; no peer feedback included.	Basic summary of walkthrough is present with limited details or vague observations.	Clear and complete summary that includes at least some quotes or specific feedback from the peer observer.	Thorough, detailed walkthrough summary including direct quotes, nuanced observations, and clear identification of both strengths and growth areas.			
Analysis & Prioritization	No clear analysis or connection between findings and program improvement.	Analysis is minimal or unclear; priority for improvement is not well explained.	Summary includes clear analysis with a well- justified improvement area.	Thoughtful, in-depth analysis connects findings to broader program goals; improvement area is well-prioritized and explained.			
Implementation Plan	No plan provided or lacks specific details.	Plan is vague, missing actionable steps or timeline.	Plan includes specific action steps and explains how the change will address the identified area.	Plan is specific, actionable, time- bound, and clearly linked to improving environment, safety, or engagement.			

Child/Youth Observation and Assessment

	Option 3: Walk Through Analysis					
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score	
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, or sentence structure errors that affect clarity.	Some grammar/spelling issues; overall meaning is understandable but could be clearer.		Nearly error-free; writing is polished, professional, and easy to understand.		
Formatting & Word Count	Less than 400 words, poorly formatted, hard to read or follow.	Less than 400–500 words, inconsistent formatting, organization needs improvement.	400–500 words, mostly well-formatted and organized with clear sections.	400–500 words, clean, professional formatting, easy to read and logically organized.		
Assessment of Needs	No assessment or vague assessment.	Basic assessment but lacks depth or clarity	Good assessment with clear considerations	Thorough and thoughtful assessment, addressing all areas		
Implementation	No plan or unclear plan for addressing needs	Basic plan for addressing needs with some details	I stens for addressing	Detailed, actionable plan with clear steps and strong focus on overall health and safety		

Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth

		Required Eleme	nt: Quality Tool		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, or sentence structure errors that affect clarity.	Some grammar/spelling issues; overall meaning is understandable but could be clearer.	Minor grammar/spelling issues; writing is mostly clear and well-structured.	Nearly error-free; writing is polished, professional, and easy to understand.	
Completion of Quality Tool	Ratings are missing or incomplete; no responses to implementation questions.	Tool is partially completed with vague or inconsistent responses.	All indicators are rated with clear responses to how each is being implemented.	Tool is fully completed with thoughtful, detailed responses that reflect deep engagement with each practice.	
Implementation Explanations	No evidence of reflection or understanding of the indicators.	l Hynlanations are surtace.	Provides clear, practice-based explanations for most indicators, showing understanding of staff-youth relationship principles.	examples or practices that demonstrate strong	
Narrative Summary (200–300 words)	Narrative is missing, too short, or off-topic.	thoughts but lacks	Narrative reflects on scores, includes relevant insights, and identifies at least one area of strength and one area for growth.	Narrative is well-written, insightful, and connects scores to specific examples, strengths, and future goals.	
Connection to Youth Development	No connection made between practices and youth development outcomes.	Minimal connection; may mention benefits but lacks explanation.	Shows an understanding of how staff-youth relationships support youth growth.	Clearly explains how each practice fosters social-emotional learning, belonging, and positive youth development.	

	Option 1: Behavior Policy						
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, or sentence structure errors that affect clarity.	Some grammar/spelling issues; overall meaning is understandable but could be clearer.	Minor grammar/spelling issues; writing is mostly clear and well-structured.	Nearly error-free; writing is polished, professional, and easy to understand.			
Formatting & Word Count	Less than 400 words, poorly formatted, hard to read or follow.	Less than 400–500 words, inconsistent formatting, organization needs improvement.	400–500 words, mostly well- formatted and organized with clear sections.	400–500 words, clean, professional formatting, easy to read and logically organized.			
Behavior Policy	Policy is unclear, incomplete, or unprofessional	Policy is clear but lacks some detail or depth	Policy is comprehensive, clear, and mostly professional	Policy is clear, comprehensive, and highly professional			
Strategy Discussion	Lacks specific strategies or uses overly generalized examples	Describes some strategies with limited examples or analysis	Describes a variety of strategies with good examples	Thoroughly discusses a variety of strategies with clear and relevant examples			
Analysis of Advantages/Dis advantages	No analysis or superficial analysis	Mentions advantages/disadvantages but lacks depth or specific examples	Analyzes advantages/disadvantages with reasonable depth	Provides a thoughtful and detailed analysis with specific, actionable examples			
Recommendati ons for Modification	No recommendations or vague suggestions	Provides basic recommendations but lacks clarity or practical application	Provides clear recommendations with actionable steps	Provides insightful, well- considered recommendations with clear, practical applications			

Relationships and Interactions with Children and Youth

		Option 2: Yout	th Connection		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, or sentence structure errors that affect clarity.	Some grammar/spelling issues; overall meaning is understandable but could be clearer.	Minor grammar/spelling issues; writing is mostly clear and well-structured.	Nearly error-free; writing is polished, professional, and easy to understand.	
Formatting & Word Count	Less than 400 words, poorly formatted, hard to read or follow.	Less than 400–500 words, inconsistent formatting, organization needs improvement.	400–500 words, mostly well- formatted and organized with clear sections.	400–500 words, clean, professional formatting, easy to read and logically organized.	
Youth List	No list or unclear descriptions	List includes some youth but lacks specificity or clarity	List includes youth with clear and specific identifiers	List is comprehensive, including detailed and clear identifiers for each youth	
Strategies for Relationship Building	Lacks clear strategies or is too generic	Strategies are mentioned but not tailored or fully practical	Strategies are practical, clear, and somewhat empathetic	Strategies are highly practical, tailored, and deeply empathetic to each youth's needs	
Practical Application	No application or lack of understanding	Basic strategies that may not be fully actionable	Good strategies with clear examples of application	Highly effective, empathetic strategies with clear, impactful applications for each youth	

		Option 3: B	Book Review		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, or sentence structure errors that affect clarity.	Some grammar/spelling issues; overall meaning is understandable but could be clearer.	Minor grammar/spelling issues; writing is mostly clear and well-structured.	Nearly error-free; writing is polished, professional, and easy to understand.	
Formatting & Word Count	Poorly formatted, hard to read or follow.	Inconsistent formatting, organization needs improvement.	Mostly well-formatted and organized with clear sections.	Clean, professional formatting, easy to read and logically organized.	
Book Selection	Books are not age- appropriate or lack diversity	Books are age-appropriate but lack full diversity or representation	Books are age-appropriate and reflect good diversity	Books are highly age- appropriate, showcasing diverse ethnicities, backgrounds, and identities	
Book Summaries	No summaries or unclear summaries	Basic summaries lacking depth or connection to diversity	Detailed summaries with clear relevance to program diversity	Thorough, well-written summaries that deeply connect to program diversity and inclusion	
Reflection	No reflection or validating why the books represent program	Basic reflection lacking depth or connection to diversity	Detailed reflection with clear relevance to program diversity	Thorough, well- writtenreflection that deeply connect to program diversity and inclusion	
Inclusivity	No demonstration of inclusivity	Some books demonstrate inclusivity but may lack relevance or diversity	Books demonstrate good inclusivity practices	Books exhibit clear, comprehensive inclusion practices that reflect program diversity	

Youth Engagement, Voice, and Choice

		Required Element: Yo	outh Voice and Choice		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasional incomplete sentences.	Few minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structured sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Formatting & Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500 words, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400-500 words, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.	
Definition of Youth Voice and Choice	No definition or incorrect understanding	Basic definition with limited depth or explanation	Clear definition with good explanation of its importance	Comprehensive definition with deep, clear understanding of its value	
Reflection on Current Practices	No reflection or unclear reflection	Basic reflection but lacks insight or detail	Solid reflection with clear examples of practice	Deep, thoughtful reflection with clear insights into practice and youth engagement	
SMART Goal	No SMART goal or poorly defined goal	SMART goal is present but lacks clarity or specificity. Provides vague results with limited details	actionable. Provides clear	SMART goal is highly specific, measurable, and actionable, with a well-developed plan. Provides insightful, well-considered results with honest, personal reflection on implementation	

		Option 1: Youth Surv	ey and SMART Goal		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasional incomplete sentences.	Few minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structured sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Formatting & Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 100-200 word reflection, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 100-200 word reflection, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 100-200 word relfection, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 100-200 word reflection, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.	
Survey Design	Survey is poorly designed or lacks clarity	Survey is basic but lacks clarity or meaningful questions	Good survey design with relevant and clear questions	Excellent survey design with well-thought-out, clear, and relevant questions	
Data Reflection	No reflection or unclear analysis of data	Basic reflection with limited insights from data	Good analysis with clear, actionable insights from data	Deep, insightful reflection with clear, actionable steps based on data	
SMART Goal Development	No SMART goal or unclear development	SMART goal is present but lacks clarity or specificity	Clear SMART goal with some actionable steps	Well-developed SMART goal with clear, actionable steps based on data reflection	
SMART Goal Reflection	Did not reflect on the results/no results provided	Provides vague results with	Provides clear results about how implementing changes went	considered results with honest	

Youth Engagement, Voice, and Choice

Option 2: Service Learning Project							
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.			
Formatting	Submission is disorganized, incomplete, or under minimum word count.	Some formatting inconsistencies or missing word count targets.	_	Professionally formatted, visually appealing, and within word count guidelines.			
Project Description (200–300 words)	Missing or unclear description; little to no detail about the project or youth involvement.	Provides a general description of the project with minimal detail about youth engagement or observations.	Clearly describes the service learning project and offers observations of youth before, during, and after.	Detailed and engaging description of the project, with thoughtful reflection on youth behavior, engagement, and growth throughout the experience.			
Explanation of Service Learning (200–300 words)	Missing or incorrect definition; lacks explanation of purpose or impact.	Basic or vague definition; limited explanation of benefits or learning outcomes.	Clear explanation of what service learning is, including its value and impact on youth and community.	In-depth explanation with strong insight into the purpose and benefits of service learning, including thoughtful analysis of who it supports and what youth gain.			
Reflection on Youth Learning	No reflection on what youth learned.	Basic reflection, but lacks depth or evidence of critical thinking.	Describes clear outcomes for youth, including social, emotional, or civic learning.	Strong, insightful reflection with specific examples of youth growth in areas like empathy, leadership, or community awareness.			
Photos of Project	No photos provided.	One low-quality or unclear photo with limited connection to the project.	At least one clear, relevant photo showing youth engaged in the project.	Multiple high-quality photos that clearly show youth participation and tell a story of engagement and impact.			
		Option 3: NAA CKS	SC 5 Self- Assessment				
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.			
Completion of Self- Assessment	Missing or incomplete.	Provides basic summary with some relevant details.	Provides detailed and clear summary with relevant insights.	Provides comprehensive and well- organized summary with depth and clarity.			
Reflection	Incomplete or lacking depth.	Reflection present but lacks depth or specific connections.	Good reflection with clear insights and connections to practice.	Thorough and reflective analysis with deep insight into personal development.			
Professional Plan	Missing or lacks clear goals.	Contains basic goals but lacks specificity.	Clearly articulated goals with a few actionable steps.	Specific, measurable, and time- bound goals with a detailed plan for achievement.			
Action Plan	No action plan or lacks clear steps.	Action plan is present but lacks clear strategies.	Action plan with reasonable steps but may lack full clarity.	Detailed and actionable plan with clear steps to improve practice.			

Family, School, and Community Relationships

Required Element: Importance of Communication							
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.			
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500 words, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400-500 words, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.			
Family Communication Methods	Lacks reflection on family communication methods	Brief reflection with limited insight into communication methods	Clear reflection with some depth on communication methods	Deep, thoughtful reflection with clear analysis of communication methods			
Effectiveness Analysis	No analysis or unclear insights into effectiveness	Basic analysis with limited insight into what works or needs improvement		Comprehensive analysis with clear, actionable insights on effectiveness			
Suggestions for Improvement	No suggestions or poorly considered suggestions	Basic suggestions with limited practical value	Clear, practical suggestions for improvement	Thoughtful, well-considered suggestions that directly address family needs			

	Option 1: Family Event Night							
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score			
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.				
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.				
Event Planning	No event planned or lacks sufficient planning details	Event planned but lacks clarity or sufficient details	Event planned with clear details and some reflection	Thoroughly planned event with clear, thoughtful details and reflection, including what direct tasks were applicant responsbility				
Documentation	No documentation or poor documentation	Provides basic documentation, lacks clarity	Provides sufficient documentation with clear examples	Comprehensive documentation with clear, meaningful examples (e.g., sign-in sheet, photos)				
Event Reflection	No reflection or minimal reflection on outcomes	Basic reflection with limited insight into event outcomes	Solid reflection with clear analysis of event outcomes	In-depth reflection with personal, insightful analysis and thoughtful suggestions for future improvements				

Family, School, and Community Relationships

	Option 2: Align for Success							
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score			
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	is generally clear,	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.				
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500 words, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400- 500 words, consistently formatted, exceptionally well- organized and easy to navigate.				
Rubric Analysis	No use of Align for Success rubric or unclear analysis	Basic analysis using the rubric with some examples	Clear use of rubric with examples and analysis	Thorough analysis with strong examples of program and school-day collaboration				
Effective Practices	No examples or unclear examples of effective practices	Provides basic examples of effective practices	Good examples of effective practices and collaboration	lwith clear actionable insights				
Reflection on Engagement	No reflection or unclear connection to family/ community engagement	Basic reflection on how practices enhance engagement	Clear reflection with solid examples of engagement	Deep, thoughtful reflection with clear connections to how practices enhance family and community engagement				

		Option 3: Res	source Map		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Demographic Summary	Missing or lacks accurate, relevant data; no sources cited.	Basic demographic data included but limited in scope or clarity.	Clearly summarizes relevant community demographics using publicly available data.	Comprehensive, well-organized demographic profile with thoughtful analysis and cited sources.	
Connection to Program Design (200– 300 words)	No reflection on how data impacts programming.	General ideas offered, but unclear how data influences decision- making.	Thoughtful reflection on how demographics shape communication, curriculum, and engagement strategies.	Deep, insightful reflection that clearly links data to multiple aspects of program design and shows cultural responsiveness.	
Community Resource Map	Map missing or incomplete; fewer than 5 resources identified.	Map provided with 5+ resources but lacking clarity, labeling, or purpose.	Map includes 5–7 clearly labeled, relevant community resources with basic descriptions.	Map is well-labeled, easy to interpret, and includes 7+ meaningful community-based resources with purposefully described services.	
SMART Goal for Partnership	No SMART goal provided or completely unclear.	Goal is present but missing SMART elements or relevance to the program.	Clear SMART goal for building a community partnership is included.	Strong, specific, and achievable SMART goal aligned with program needs and community context.	
Reflection on Community Understanding (100–200 words)	Reflection missing or vague; no personal or programmatic insight.	Some reflection but lacks depth or specificity.	Offers a personal insight and identifies a connection to program improvement.	Thoughtful and specific reflection with a clear takeaway about how deeper community knowledge improves practice.	

Safety and Wellness

	Required Element: Safety Policy and Snack Menu						
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.			
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.			
Safety Policies	Policies are missing or disorganized; fail to address basic safety needs.	Policies included but vague, incomplete, or not site-specific.	Clearly written policies that address major areas of safety and supervision.	Comprehensive, well- organized safety document that includes emergency procedures, supervision, health protocols, and aligns with licensing or best practice standards.			
Snack Menu	Snack menu is missing or does not meet USDA guidelines.	Menu is included but lacks serving sizes or ageappropriate detail.	Menu includes 5 days of snacks and appropriate serving sizes for age group per USDA standards.	Menu is detailed, age- appropriate, aligned with USDA CACFP guidelines, and demonstrates thoughtful nutrition planning.			

		Option 1: NAA Physica	al Activity Standards		
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500 words, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well- structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400- 500 words, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.	
Understanding of Health Concerns	Little or no awareness of child health concerns.	Mentions concerns but lacks depth or specific examples.	Demonstrates awareness of obesity, chronic illness, and activity decline.	Strong grasp of current health concerns and how they impact youth and programming.	
Use of NAA Physical Activity Standards	Standards not mentioned or misused.	Reference to standards is unclear or underdeveloped.	Standards are referenced and generally applied to program examples.	Standards are clearly integrated with specific examples and well-explained strategies.	
Program Examples	No clear program strategies provided.	Some general examples, lacking clarity or connection to health outcomes.	Provides specific examples of physical activities and supports in the program.	Offers creative, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate examples that show programwide commitment to wellness.	

Safety and Wellness

Option 2: Emergency Plan and Case Scenarios					
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	i inconsistencies sections	Mostly consistent formatting, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.	
Evaluation of Emergency Plan	No evaluation provided or off-topic.	Vague evaluation with few improvement ideas.	Clear evaluation of one plan component with 2–3 improvement ideas.	Thorough, practical evaluation with inclusive, well-justified improvement recommendations.	
Case Scenarios (2)	Missing, incomplete, or not clearly addressing steps.	Basic steps outlined but lacks detail or sequence.	Two clear scenarios with logical steps, notifications, and documentation.	Two strong, realistic scenarios with detailed responses, including child care, staff roles, and communication steps.	
Reflection (100– 200 words)	No reflection included or unclear.	Basic reflection without meaningful insight.	Reflects on readiness and insights gained from scenario writing.	Thoughtful, specific reflection on readiness, team preparation, and areas to strengthen.	

Option 3: Mental and Emotional Wellbeing						
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score	
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.		
Formatting and Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.		
Well-Being Strategies (200– 300 words)	No strategies listed or off-topic.	Few strategies listed, unclear or disconnected from youth needs.	3–5 strategies described with clear relevance to emotional wellness.	3–5 well-developed, inclusive strategies that directly support emotional safety and youth development.		
Staff Training & Partnerships (200–300 words)	or support systems	Basic mention of staff strategies; partnerships unclear.	Staff PD and mental health support described with some detail.	Strong systems of staff support and collaboration with partners are clearly articulated.		
Reflection on Youth Belonging (200–300 words)	No reflection provided or vague generalizations.	Basic reflection with limited insight.	Reflects on emotional safety and provides a clear example.	Deep, reflective response with strong insight and an authentic, specific example of emotional support.		

Program Planning and Development

	Required Element: Program Mission Assessment						
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasional incomplete sentences.	Few minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structured sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.			
Formatting & Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.			
Mission & Values Statement	Mission and values are missing or unclear.	Mission and values are vague or incomplete; limited relevance to the organization.	Clear and accurate mission and values are provided and relevant to the organization's purpose.	Well-articulated, inspiring mission and values clearly aligned to organizational goals and identity.			
Culture Reflection (200– 300 words)	No reflection or comparison of envisioned vs. current culture.	Minimal or surface-level comparison with limited insight or unclear feedback from staff.	Reflects on the envisioned culture, current workplace reality, and identifies specific gaps or areas for growth.	Thoughtful and insightful analysis comparing desired and current culture, incorporating staff feedback and identifying clear opportunities for improvement.			
Staff Engagement & Input	No evidence of staff input or engagement.	Minimal or anecdotal input from staff; lacks structure.	Staff feedback is acknowledged and helps shape the reflection.	Meaningful staff input is thoughtfully integrated; shows collaboration and active listening to employee voices.			
Recommendations for Improvement (200–300 words)	No clear recommendations; lacks relevance to culture or mission.	General suggestions; lacks depth, feasibility, or direct connection to mission/values.	Offers actionable, relevant recommendations that address relationships, communication, and collaboration.	Provides clear, strategic, and mission-aligned recommendations with strong rationale and potential for measurable impact.			
Alignment to Mission & Values	No connection between culture discussion and mission/values.	Vague or weak connection to mission/values.	Demonstrates clear alignment between recommendations and organizational principles.	Deep integration of mission and values throughout all sections; recommendations and reflection are clearly grounded in the organization's core purpose.			

Program Planning and Development

	Option 1: Program Assessment						
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score		
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasional incomplete sentences.	Few minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structured sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.			
Formatting & Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.			
Use of Assessment Tool	No assessment tool included or referenced.	Tool is mentioned but not clearly connected to findings or improvement plan.	Tool is provided and key findings are summarized.	Assessment tool is clearly included or referenced, with thoughtful interpretation of results guiding the entire plan.			
Staffing Evaluation	Staffing is not addressed or discussed vaguely.	General comments on staffing with limited analysis or no action steps.	Clear evaluation of staffing roles, gaps, and professional development needs.	Thorough staffing review with well-reasoned action steps tied to improvement, training, and program needs.			
Resource Assessment	No discussion of materials, equipment, or funding.	Minimal mention of resources with no proposed solutions.	Adequate assessment of current resources and realistic proposals for improvement.	Strong analysis of resource availability with specific strategies for acquiring, reallocating, or maximizing tools and funds.			
Services Analysis & Recommendations		Basic analysis of services with unclear or impractical recommendations.	Describes current services and offers relevant, feasible improvements.	In-depth evaluation of services, including innovative, missionaligned suggestions that respond to youth and community needs.			
Alignment with Mission & Vision	No mention of mission/vision or irrelevant to proposed plan.	Vague connection to program mission or vision.	Improvement plan aligns with overall goals and values of the program.	Plan is deeply aligned with the program's mission and vision, ensuring meaningful and sustainable change.			

Program Planning and Development

Option 2: SA-PQA Reflection					
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasional incomplete sentences.	Few minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structured sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Formatting & Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400-500 words per student, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.	
Program Strengths	No identification of strengths or unclear examples	Basic identification of program strengths with limited analysis	Clear identification of strengths with examples and analysis	Thorough analysis of program strengths with clear, relevant examples	
Areas for Growth	No identification of areas for growth or unclear examples	Basic identification with limited insight	Clear identification with meaningful insights and examples	In-depth analysis of growth areas with thoughtful, actionable insights	
SMART Goal Development	No SMART goal or poorly defined goal	Basic SMART goal with limited clarity	Clear SMART goal with actionable steps	Well-developed SMART goal with clear, specific, and actionable steps	

Option 3: Workplace Resource Management					
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar & Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasional incomplete sentences.	Few minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structured sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Formatting & Organization	Font size/style is inconsistent, less than 400-500, document is disorganized and difficult to follow.	Some formatting inconsistencies, less than 400-500 words, sections lack clear structure.	Mostly consistent formatting, 400-500 words, well-structured with clear sections.	Correct 12-point font, 400-500 words per student, consistently formatted, exceptionally well-organized and easy to navigate.	
Resource and Material List	Incomplete or unclear list of resources/materials	Basic list of resources/materials with minimal detail	Clear and organized list of resources/materials with some detail	Comprehensive, well-organized list of resources/materials with complete detail and categorization	
Reflection and Process Analysis	No reflection or unclear analysis of the process	Basic reflection on the process with limited insights	Solid reflection with clear insights into the process and identified improvements	In-depth reflection with thoughtful analysis of the process, including challenges faced, solutions implemented, and areas for future growth	
Actionable Plan for Improvement	No actionable plan or unclear suggestions for improvement	Basic suggestions for improvement with limited action steps	Clear and practical plan with specific action steps for improving resource tracking and allocation	Comprehensive, actionable plan with clear, measurable steps and strategies for improving resource tracking, allocation, and efficiency	

Professional Development and Leadership

Required Element: NAA CKSC Self Assessment					
Criteria	1 (Unacceptable)	2 (Needs Improvement)	3 (Proficient)	4 (Exemplary)	Score
Grammar and Clarity	Frequent grammar, spelling, and sentence structure errors, incomplete or unclear sentences.	Some errors, but meaning is generally clear, occasionally incomplete sentences.	Few Minor grammar or spelling mistakes, mostly complete and well-structure sentences.	Nearly flawless grammar, clear and concise sentences, professional and polished presentation.	
Completion of Self- Assessment	Missing or incomplete.	Provides basic summary with some relevant details.	Provides detailed and clear summary with relevant insights.	Provides comprehensive and well-organized summary with depth and clarity.	
Reflection	Incomplete or lacking depth.	Reflection present but lacks depth or specific connections.	Good reflection with clear insights and connections to practice.	Thorough and reflective analysis with deep insight into personal development.	
Professional Plan	Missing or lacks clear goals.	Contains basic goals but lacks specificity.	Clearly articulated goals with a few actionable steps.	Specific, measurable, and time- bound goals with a detailed plan for achievement.	
Action Plan	No action plan or lacks clear steps.	Action plan is present but lacks clear strategies.	Action plan with reasonable steps but may lack full clarity.	Detailed and actionable plan with clear steps to improve practice.	