



# Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE)

## Dear Texas ACE Grantees,



I would like to take the time to wish each and every one of you a Happy Holiday season! I'm so pleased with all the work we have been able to accomplish over the last few months, as it has truly been a team effort! I have been so happy to see and hear about all the wonderful things you are doing to impact students and families in your communities.

Your passion and dedication to Texas ACE is truly inspiring! I hope you take the time to enjoy your family, friends and loved ones during the holiday break and

come back refreshed and ready to start 2010 with as much enthusiasm as you have shown this past year!

On behalf of myself, Liza Lorenzi and James Connolly, (aka Team 21), we would like to offer our sincerest thanks and wishes to you all for a Happy Holiday season!

Sincerely,  
Candace M. Ferguson  
*State Coordinator/Program Manager*

## The Unveiling of TexasACE21.org

In August, you were introduced to a new program name and brand, Afterschool Centers on Education™, referred to as ACE™. Along with this new tool, you now have a **new expanded online resource** with [TexasACE21.org](http://TexasACE21.org) to help you build an enduring afterschool program. However, the website name is not the only change you will notice on the website.

### Key Enhancements

Improving the navigation and the overall user experience were the foundation for redesigning [TexasACE21.org](http://TexasACE21.org). The ACE website has been designed so that students, parents, schools and community partners can easily access information about ACE. Exciting new features include:

- The incorporation of the new ACE brand to reinforce the program's identity
- Sections specifically formatted for users (Grantees & Centers, Students & Families, and Schools & Community Partners, offering comprehensive information that is relevant to each audience)
- At-A-Glance view of information is available for each audience section
- ACE Locator helps web visitors locate an ACE in their community
- Detailed information on ACE Activities (Units and accompanying lesson plans)—Coming Soon
- Links to National and State resources
- An enhanced Search function

... And More!

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# Stay Connected...News You Can Use

These last few months have been exciting with the announcement of the ACE brand, the addition of Cycle 6, and now new faces in the Communication Network and Technical Assistance Consultant roles.

## Communication Network Update

The Communication Network represents grantees and stakeholders from various regions across Texas. They are your liaison with TEA and communicate and advocate on behalf of your region. This group informs and analyzes program issues and designs special initiatives that will assist you in developing consistent high-quality afterschool programs in the areas of high academic standards, college and career readiness, family activities, and enrichment.

## Congratulations 2009 – 2010 ACE Communication Network members!

<b>Region 1</b> Marcos De Los Santos	<b>Region 11</b> Miguel Garcia
<b>Region 2</b> Richard Torres	<b>Region 12</b> Elizabeth Nelson
<b>Region 3</b> Frances Ehrlich	<b>Region 13</b> Shirlene Justice
<b>Region 4</b> Stacey Crawford	<b>Region 14</b> Cindy Callahan
<b>Region 5</b> Open	<b>Region 15</b> Julia Gonzales
<b>Region 6</b> Open	<b>Region 16</b> Open
<b>Region 7</b> Peggy McAlister	<b>Region 17</b> Fiona May
<b>Region 8</b> Donna Rice	<b>Region 18</b> Open
<b>Region 9</b> Donna Farrell	<b>Region 19</b> Open
<b>Region 10</b> Sarah Brightwell	<b>Region 20</b> Ester Buendia

## Located in an “Open” Region?

Interested in joining the Communication Network? [Complete and submit an application.](#)

## Highlights from the Oct. 29th Meeting

With the beginning of a new school year and new Communication Network members, this meeting focused on building the foundation for how the Communication Network can assist in developing high quality afterschool programs. The meeting agenda included:

- TEA's Vision for ACE (Candace Ferguson)
- Communication Network Mission Statement & Guidelines (Kristin Nafziger)
- Connecting ACE's Vision to its Impact on Student Achievement and College/Workforce Readiness (Barbara Knaggs, Associate Commissioner for State Initiatives, and Gina Day, Deputy Associate Commissioner)
- Subcommittee discussions on Strategic Planning, Professional Development, TX21st Updates, and Communicating within your Region
- Service Term by Region (Kristin Nafziger)

## Submit Your Questions to the Help-Desk

A new help-desk is now available to provide an easy venue to address your questions. While every effort is made to answer questions within 48-hours of submission, questions requiring additional research, may require more time. Submit inquiries to [TexasAce21@EdvanceResearch.com](mailto:TexasAce21@EdvanceResearch.com).

## Meet Your TAC

The 2009 – 2010 Technical Assistance Consultants have been assigned and are excited to work with you in developing an enduring ACE program:

**Rio Grande Valley Region**—Frances Jones

**Central Region**—Paula Ware

**Gulf Region**—Shanya Dean

**Dallas/Fort-Worth Region**—John Perry

**At-Large**—Eileen Beiersdorf

Located throughout Texas, these individuals play a multi-faceted and critical role in supporting you in ensuring that your ACE is in compliance with grant requirements and by providing high level quality technical assistance to support your needs.

## Cycle 6 Update

With 45 Program Administrators, Cycle 6 has opened 290 Centers across Texas, expanding ACE services to more students. Congratulations to everyone's hard work and dedication. TEA recently awarded 18 additional program administrators which included 90 additional centers to receive Cycle 6 funding, bringing the total number of Cycle 6 program administrators to 63 and 380 centers.

## 2007 – 2008 Texas 21st CCLC Evaluation Report Now Available

The *Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Evaluation 2007 – 08* was published in August 2009. The purpose of this report was to provide a comprehensive description of the implementation and impact of the 21st CCLC program in Texas during the 2007 – 08 academic year, to examine the impact of program participation on student outcomes, and to investigate possible mediating, moderating, or other explanatory variables associated with successful programs.

To access the report's findings, please see below:

- Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Evaluation 2007 – 08 [Executive Summary](#) (110KB)
- Texas 21st Century Community Learning Centers Evaluation 2007 – 08 [Full Report](#) (2,894KB)

Keep up to date on the latest news, visit [TexasACE21.org](http://TexasACE21.org).



# New Research-Based Reports

To help you support and provide best practices in afterschool program delivery, a number of resources are being made available to you. Below is a listing of recently published research-based reports published by The Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and the Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR). You can access these reports by visiting IES' and CCSR's websites.

NOW  
AVAILABLE!

## Structuring Out-of-School Time to Improve Academic Achievement

This practice guide discusses best practices for organizing and delivering school-based out-of-school time programs to improve academic achievement. The recommendations focus on designing an OST program, delivering academic instruction, engaging students to improve performance, and evaluating an OST program. [Read more.](#)

## Helping Students Navigate the Path to College: What High Schools Can Do

This **What Works Clearinghouse** report outlines effective practices school administrators, educators, and policymakers can implement with 9th grade students to increase access to higher education. These practices prepare students academically for college, assist them in completing the steps to college entry, and improve their likelihood of enrolling in college. The report also offers recommendations on what actions students and school administrators should take. [Read more.](#)

## What Matters for Staying On-Track and Graduating in Chicago Public High Schools

This report examines course grades, failures, and attendance of 9th grade students and how they relate to 9th grade students graduating from high school. The report identifies and discusses factors that influence class work performance and presents evidence that illustrate the importance teachers and schools play in student academic performance and graduation. [Read more.](#)

[Access additional research-based reports.](#)

# Introducing My Texas ACE, an online learning portal

[MyTexasACE.org](#) is a secure online learning site for ACE Program Administrators and Center staff. It provides you the opportunity to:

- Connect with ACE Program Administrators and Center staff across Texas
- Share and discuss lessons learned
- Obtain support with implementing grant requirements
- View the Calendar of Events
- Access “on-demand” training—podcasts and archived webinars
- Participate in online courses that are on-demand or facilitated
- Access a variety of resource tools
- Search the Help Desk for answers to questions surrounding the grant implementation
- And more!

Project directors were asked to register, along with three program administrator level staff (i.e. data management contact) and all of their site coordinators to access [MyTexasAce.org](#). Once the registration process was completed, each registrant was emailed a User Name, password, and instructions for accessing [MyTexasACE.org](#).

If you are a project director, a site coordinator, or have the responsibility of managing a center's data, and have not received registration confirmation, please contact us via the Help-Desk at [TexasACE21@EdvanceResearch.com](mailto:TexasACE21@EdvanceResearch.com).

# Calendar of Events

## Project Director Webinar

January 13th from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

## Strategic Planning Regional Training

January/February

## Communication Network Meeting

January 14th

## T-STEM Best Practices Conference

February 9th – 10th

## Beyond School Hours XIII

## Expanding Foundations for Learning—Winter Institute

February 17th – 20th

## US Department of Education Meet and Greet with Sylvia Lyles

February 18th – During Beyond School Hours XIII

—Winter Institute

## Questions?

A new help-desk is now available to provide an easy venue to address your questions. Send your inquiries to [TexasACE21@edvanceresearch.com](mailto:TexasACE21@edvanceresearch.com)

## TEA Leadership

**Lizzette Reynolds**—Deputy Commissioner

**Barbara Knaggs**—Associate Commissioner

**Gina Day**—Deputy Associate Commissioner

**Julie Wayman**—Manager, Special Programs

**Candace M. Ferguson**—State Coordinator/Program Manager

**Liza Lorenzi**—Program Specialist

**James Connolly**—Grant Manager

## Edvance Research Leadership

**Kristin Nafziger**—Project Director

**Brian Brothers**—Project Manager



Texas Education Agency  
Afterschool Centers on Education

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# Training Goes High Tech

Fall 2009 saw the development and release of many online learning opportunities now available at [TexasACE21.org](http://TexasACE21.org) and at [MyTexasACE.org](http://MyTexasACE.org). Here you will find something for every level of grant implementation, from frequently asked questions about grant requirements to innovative activities for students accessible through podcasts, archived webinars, and coming soon online courses and ehelp-desk. For more information on [MyTexasACE.org](http://MyTexasACE.org), see page 2.

## Texas ACE Podcasts NEW!

Now you can view and listen to professional development sessions on your computer or download them straight to your favorite portable device such as an iPod or pocket pc. By subscribing to the ACE Podcasts you will have access to these sessions through iTunes. [Click here](#) for information on how to subscribe and what you need to get connected to ACE Podcasts.

## NOGA, Now What? Podcast Series

This 3-part series features TEA's Texas ACE leadership offering key program, fiscal, and data management resources. The series includes:

- Grant Guidelines (3 episodes) from **Candace Ferguson**, State Coordinator / Program Manager;
- TX21st Student Tracking Data Reporting Expectations (2 episodes), **Liza Lorenzi**, Program Specialist; and
- Fiscal and Budget Need to Knows (4 episodes) from **James Connolly**, Grant Manager.

## Webinars

**Innovative Learning: Unleashing Students' Creative Power through Technology Webinar Series**

In this series, you will learn how to connect your students' world to powerful learning opportunities by integrating tools such as podcasts, blogs, and other technologies into creative Activities and Lessons you can turn around and use at your afterschool site. You will hear practical ways that fellow Texas ACE grantees have linked technology and learning at their afterschool centers and from experts who inspire us with ideas on how to impact students exponentially through these tools!

Presenters include Shawn Petty from the Harris County Department of Education and Deneen Frazier-Bowen, keynote speaker at the

*(The Unveiling of TexasACE21.org, continued from page 1)*

Based on your feedback, several enhancements were made to improve the usability of the website and highlight ACE Grantees and Centers:

- Easy access to training information (event schedule, archived training sessions, and training tools)
- Focus on local activities, center staff, community volunteers/partners, and students through "In the Spotlight" articles
- Contact information for Grantees and Centers
- Downloadable ACE Outreach materials

2009 Texas 21st CCLC Annual Conference. Bowen is a nationally recognized expert in creating student voice through social media.

The first session was delivered on November 5, 2009. You can [view and download materials](#) from the archived webinar.

## Be Prepared... Strategic Planning Regional Training

In preparation for your regional training session as Cycle 5 and 6 project directors, please view the [webinars and download tools](#) which pertain to creating a strategic plan. Remember that a 5-year strategic plan is due for all Cycle 5 and 6 grantees as part of the continuation application. Please continue working with your Community Afterschool Taskforce and other key stakeholders to draft and update your strategic plan.

## More Training & Support:

- PRIME Enhanced Podcast
- Data Collection, Review, & Reporting self-paced online course through [MyTexasACE.org](http://MyTexasACE.org)
- How-to training on using Activity Planning Worksheet and Lesson Plans
- Center Service Delivery Plan Online Facilitated Course targeting the Needs Assessment and analysis through [MyTexasACE.org](http://MyTexasACE.org)

## Save the date:

- PRIME in Detail—January 2010
- Peer Pods—Voices from the field in December 2009
- Innovative Learning Webinar #3 February 2010
- Evaluating and Monitoring Webinar April 2010
- Project Director planning webinars (ongoing)

*Information and dates of all training events will be posted on [TexasACE21.org](http://TexasACE21.org) and the [MyTexasACE.org](http://MyTexasACE.org).*

[TexasACE21.org](http://TexasACE21.org) is a dynamic information source for ACE stakeholders. While a resource for Centers and Grantees, it also helps promote the benefits of ACE to students, parents, schools, and the community. To reinforce these benefits, Centers are encouraged to recommend activities, staff members, volunteers, and students to feature through "In the Spotlight" articles as a way to showcase their local ACE. Please submit these recommendations or other ideas to feature on the website, by completing the [feedback form](#).

**Be sure to direct your students, parents, school personnel and community members to [www.TexasACE21.org](http://www.TexasACE21.org)!**