Arizona’s grantees must monitor and report on academic SMART objectives for 21st CCLC student participants each program year for state and federal reports. Academic activities must be designed to support students that have been targeted to receive services.

**Definition**

*Academic activities must address the needs of schools and communities*

Programs should design academic offerings based on rigorous scientific research that aligns with the measures of effectiveness to guide local grantees in identifying and implementing best practices to enhance student learning. Grantees must provide academic enrichment activities to students in core content areas such as reading, literacy, and math.

**Key Components for Building Capacity**

1. **System Vision**
   - Continuous evaluation of outcome/performance measures
   - If appropriate – activities are based on scientific research
   - Provides academic enrichment opportunities to address students and family needs

2. **Essential Conditions and Opportunities**
   - Assessments, surveys, teacher/family input identifies student needs
   - Evidence-based curriculum
   - Includes students/families/school day staff in the planning process
   - Works with school day goals to continue intentional learning
   - Provides hands-on engaging learning opportunities
   - Incorporates Project-Based Learning, small group settings, and youth voice
   - Includes a calendar in advance for students/families to prepare for services/opportunities (when possible)
   - Ensures that the program structure promotes time on task, and uses strategies to encourage attendance (including in-person, phone calls, letters, student made invitations, etc.)
## What are the Best Practices Happening in Arizona’s 21st CCLC K-12 Sites?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>S.T.E.M.</th>
<th>Literacy</th>
<th>College and Career Readiness</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content Specific</strong></td>
<td>• National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) STEM Tool Kit</td>
<td>• Reader’s Theater</td>
<td>• College Prep Sessions</td>
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<td>• Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) STEM-Rich Afterschool Making Project</td>
<td>• The Writing Process</td>
<td>• Career Stations</td>
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<td>• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Watershed Projects</td>
<td>• Literacy Toolkit</td>
<td>• Exploration Activities</td>
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<td>• National Parks Service (NPS) HOL (hands on Learning) STEM Project</td>
<td>• Read, Write, Think</td>
<td>• FAFSA Nights</td>
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<td>• Robotics</td>
<td>• Literacy Activity Centers</td>
<td>• Future Architects</td>
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<td>• Engineering</td>
<td>• Family Engagement</td>
<td>• Awareness Activities</td>
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<td>• Mathletes Class</td>
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<td>• DECA</td>
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<td>• Maker Space Programs</td>
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<td>• Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)</td>
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<td>• Technology Classes</td>
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<td>• Future Farmers of America (FFA)</td>
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<td>• Chess</td>
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<td>• Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA)</td>
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<td>• Skills USA</td>
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<td>• Relating all learning opportunities to their real-life impact on future college and career success.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Grade Level Tutoring
- Specific content area support to reinforce academic achievement during weekly programs

### Homework Support
- Facilitated weekly programming for homework support in all content areas

### Project-Based Learning
- Citizen Science
- Gardening & Sustainability
- Investigating
- Issues in Your Community
- Community Partners Project
- 4-H Positive Youth Development and Mentoring Organization

### Summer Programs
- You for Youth – Summer Learn More Library
- Wallace Foundation - Summer Learning Toolkit
- Engaging hands-on learning experience
- Blend remediation/advanced curricula with enrichment activities
- Thematic units
- Skill-builders
- Book Club

For more resources visit 21st CCLC Youth Development - [https://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/youth-development](https://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/youth-development)

* The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Title IV-B program is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Arizona Department of Education. For more information visit: [http://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/](http://www.azed.gov/21stcclc/)

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