



PROGRAM QUALITY ASSESSMENT HANDBOOK

Social Emotional Learning



the
forum
FOR YOUTH INVESTMENT



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PROGRAM QUALITY

program quality

NEWS

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PQA Playing Cards

HOW TO



Program Quality Assessment (PQA) playing cards are a useful tool to familiarize program staff with the structure of the PQA and best practices at any point in the continuous quality improvement (CQI) process. Designed to be used in tandem with the PQA, playing cards can be used to review what's measured in the PQA, to do a quick rating of your program, or 100 other things! Whether a program is in-person, hybrid or virtual, the PQA playing cards can prompt discussion on how to establish the best practices outlined in the PQA.

PREPARE

- **Get to know the PQA!** Be sure to have a copy of the PQA nearby when using the playing cards. Check to see what the best practices (the '5' indicators) are for each card.

ASSESS

- **PQA challenge:** pick a card. Use the statement on the card to generate a PQA challenge of the day or week!
- **Quiz show:** if the 'Youth have opportunities to develop a sense of belonging' card is pulled, name how many items are in that scale and the best practices. Do this for all cards in the deck.
- **Dealer's choice:** have young people pull cards for their facilitator to model that day.

PLAN

- **Describing data:** pick a card. Ask yourself, "how would you describe your data for this scale to a) a parent, b) a principle, and c) a partner?"
- **Goal setting:** choose a card. Ask yourself, "what do you need to grow in this area?" and "what is one step you are going to take?"

IMPROVE

- **Affirmations:** pull cards at the end of the day or week for program staff to provide shout-outs and recognitions to each other, using specific examples.
- **Keeping CQI Alive:** use cards to introduce direct staff and/or new staff to the tool, highlight a scale each week during staff meetings, or post a couple of cards in the program space that support improvement areas.