To find out more about AfterSchool Works! New York and the New York State School Age Care Credential, please visit our website at www.afterschoolworksny.org.

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Distance learning is no less demanding than traditional classroom based education, and requires significantly more self-motivation and time management skills.

The Distance Learning School-Age Care Preparation Course meets live weekly; requiring simultaneous access to telephone and internet service. Technological requirements for distance learning students include: high speed internet, access to a digital camera, computer microphone and speakers OR long distance phone service. These live sessions are supplemented by independent online discussion amounting to 1-2 hours weekly.

The New York State Education Incentive Program (EIP) has approved this course as an eligible distance learning course. The cost of this course is $900.00 per 14 week semester, for a total course cost of $1,800.00. A $100.00 non-refundable registration fee is required to secure your registration in our upcoming course. This amount will be applied to your total tuition. In addition, current membership in AfterSchool Works! New York is required prior to registration.

The New York State School-Age Care (SAC) Credential is designed to promote quality services to children and families by providing specific standards, training and evaluation of afterschool professionals. The SAC Credential was developed in collaboration with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services Bureau of Early Childhood Services and Cornell University and can satisfy a New York State Regulations qualification for site director of a school-age / afterschool program.

AfterSchool Works! New York, formerly the New York State School Age Care Coalition serves as the credentialing agency and delivers credential preparatory coursework in partnership with a number of Host Agencies throughout the state. To ensure access for all who are interested, we also offer a full distance learning component of the credential coursework.

Working towards the credential can be a rewarding experience, both personally and professionally. By doing so, it offers professionals the opportunity to:

- Assess their own work in relation to competency standards;
- Obtain feedback, guidance and support from other professionals in the field;
- Improve and expand their professional practice in ways that are satisfying for themselves and beneficial for the children and families they serve;
- Earn a professional credential that is widely respected and recognized throughout New York State and beyond.
In order to apply for the New York State School-Age Care Credential, one must meet the following requirements:

- Currently provide school-age care and work directly and regularly with children;
- Have, within the past 3 years, at least 480 hours of experience working with school-age children in a registered or licensed program;
- Possess either a high school diploma or GED equivalent. Transcripts of relevant coursework should accompany one’s application for coursework.

Step 5:
Request an Assessment Visit

Once your coursework and documentation is complete and your Advisor has observed your work three times - you will apply for an assessment visit from a trained New York State SAC Credential Endorser. The fee for this service is currently $1,000.00 made payable to AfterSchool Works! New York. All SAC Credential candidates are eligible to receive 100% of the assessment fee through EIP regardless of income status.

Step 6:
A Successful Visit

Once you have a successful visit with one of our New York State SAC Credential Endorsers, including observation and interview, materials are submitted to the statewide SAC Credential Review Panel who then awards or defers the SAC Credential.

Step 7:
Renew Your SAC Credential

Successful credential candidates are required to renew their SAC Credential every three years using a process that involves less time than what is initially required to obtain your credential.
Once you decide to pursue your SAC Credential, you need to enroll in a Credential Preparatory Course offered by one of our partner organizations. To obtain a complete list of active SAC Credential Host Agencies, go to our website at www.afterschoolworksny.org and click on the quality initiatives page. AfterSchool Works! New York also offers a distance learning option.

**Step 1:**
Select a Host Agency

Once you decide to pursue your SAC Credential, you need to enroll in a Credential Preparatory Course offered by one of our partner organizations. To obtain a complete list of active SAC Credential Host Agencies, go to our website at www.afterschoolworksny.org and click on the quality initiatives page. AfterSchool Works! New York also offers a distance learning option.

**Step 2:**
Cover Your Costs

Apply for tuition support from EIP – the Educational Incentive Program. Funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, EIP is designed to help professional child care providers in licensed programs pay for the training and education that they need in order to ensure quality care for children and youth. Go to http://www.tsg.suny.edu/eip.shtm for more information.

**Step 3:**
Identify Your Advisor

Once enrolled in a prep course, you will work with your Host Agency to identify your Advisor. The Advisors work closely with credential candidates to assess competence; observe their work with children and coach for continued professional growth. The Advisor is a critical player in promoting your professionalism and advancing your skills and expertise as an afterschool practitioner.

**Step 4:**
Develop Your Documentation

Along with your coursework, you will begin to develop a Portfolio and a Resource File that documents your competence in fourteen skill areas that make up the SAC Credential. These include: Professionalism, Child Development, Safety, Health, Out of School Environments, Physical, Cognitive, Communication, Creative, Self, Social, Guidance, Families and Operational Program Management.