



Introduction

The Center for a New Generation (CNG) is a comprehensive education initiative that targets lower-income youth with middle to high academic potential (STRIVERS) to help them achieve educational success and develop a lifelong love of learning. CNG was developed specifically for afterschool and summer settings to engage youth in a hands-on, project-oriented instructional environment by combining informal but focused academic and arts enrichment activities for holistic learning.

CNG encourages children to broaden their learning experience by exploring STREAM:

- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Enhanced Reading
- Visual and performing Arts

CNG builds well-rounded students, nurtures their learning, and positions these youth for success in high school, college, and beyond.

History

The Center For A New Generation (CNG) program was founded in 1991 by Condoleezza Rice, Susan Ford-Dorsey and other community partners in East Palo Alto, California near Stanford University.

The program has been expanded to Menlo Park and Redwood City, California in conjunction with The Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP); The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta (BGCMA); The Boys & Girls Clubs in Birmingham (AGGBGC); and, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Dallas (BGCD). The specific sites for these programs were identified and created with the approval of each local school district.

Plans for other strategic locations around the country are continually being researched and identified as potential partners in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America and Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

Program Objectives

Each Center for a New Generation site aims to:

- Provide hands-on, project-focused academic enrichment activities everyday afterschool and during the summer to inspire students to enjoy learning by

focusing on as many of the STREAM areas possible depending on the hours & location of the program.

- Provide daily homework assistance and supplemental academic activities to enhance their learning process.
- Increase the self-esteem & self-confidence of participating students to support their desire to succeed in education and in life.
- Provide parent/guardian meetings & present tools to increase their capability for navigating within the education system and provide appropriate support for their children.
- Strongly encourage and promote membership in CNG through the 8th grade, then connect with a high school Program such as Diplomas to Degrees, College Bound or other local, sustained, organized H.S. support group

Program Standards

CNG Program Standards will be adhered to in the student selection and program implementation process as follows. More information is given in subsequent sections of this overview.

- Students with a C grade point average or better (or aspiring to succeed in school)
- Students with good behavior/citizenship in their regular classroom and CNG
- Students recommended by their regular classroom teacher or principal
- Motivated students who want to be in CNG and will attend at least 3 days per week (M-Th program)
- Parent/Guardian commitment and involvement/workshops
- Creative, fun, hands-on activities and projects
- Positive, nurturing classroom environment and teacher/student relationship
- Strong, creative credentialed teachers
- Strong, active college students as teacher assistants and role models
- Fun, rigorous, project-based learning activities with STREAM focus
- Low student/teacher ratio (no more than 12-15:1)
- Partnership with local school district
- No membership enrollment cost to parents/guardians advised (BGC fee structure will not prohibit continued CNG student registration)

Participant Profile

Students are recommended by the teachers, principal, parents as well as staff from the local Boys & Girls Clubs who work with students that meet the criteria of the program.

Students who do not fit the recommended CNG profile will be encouraged to participate in other local Boys & Girls Club's academic programs until such times as they can succeed in the CNG structured schedule and environment.

Students selected for this project should be:

- Motivated and exhibit average (or better) academic performance in their regular classroom indicating they are making an effort to do what is expected of them to pass their regular course work;

- Demonstrating good citizenship in their in-school classrooms as this behavior will be expected and needed for successful team project experiences in CNG.

CNG is also interested in serving youth with parents who demonstrate active concern and involvement in their child's educational progress.

Once accepted, students and parents are asked to commit to remain in CNG through 8th grade and continue to receive support from programs such as BGCA's Diplomas to Degrees or College Bound during high school.

Program Content

The program content includes activities and projects in STREAM (science, technology, reading, engineering, arts, and math).

In addition, CNG offers sports, field trips and other special activities to be consistent with the goal of serving the "whole" child.

The program will also provide other activities in the focus areas of The Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BGCA), which include Academic Success, Character & Leadership and Healthy Lifestyles.

A "hands-on", active, nurturing environment is key to achieving the objective of developing the joy of discovery and encouraging active involvement in the learning process. CNG research indicates that experiences in fun, informal settings can significantly improve STEM learning outcomes for students from groups which are historically under-represented in STREAM classrooms and educational programs. Environments that are interactive, student-focused and designed with specific learning goals support stronger academic gains for these students.

Engagement in the fine & applied arts nurtures the development of cognitive, social and personal competencies. Art-focused, after-school programs can increase academic achievement, decrease youth involvement in negative behaviors and improve youth attitudes towards themselves, others and their futures.

Program People

The local Boys & Girls Clubs employ a CNG Program Director to implement the program at the chosen partnership sites. This person is responsible for day-to-day execution of the objectives and activities to meet local agreed upon goals.

The local CNG Program Director employs successful, credentialed teachers to lead the STEM and Reading curriculum as designed locally to fit the individual students needs and goals.

CNG also partners with local high-performing professionals (vendors) to lead the student-centered Arts activities and programs. For example, a local dance or band teacher may be employed to teach specific arts programs to interested students.

CNG also partners with a local higher-education institution to utilize local college students as assistants, mentors and volunteers.

The goal is to have a classroom student-to-teacher ratio of no more than 15:1.

A parent component is also included in the program to help parents gain a better understanding of the important role they must play in helping support their child's development and success in school.

Measurement Tools

The BGCA's National Youth Outcome Initiative (NYOI) survey is administered by most BGC organizations to provide data on the youth's club experience. Each local CNG site is linked into a computer program for recording attendance and other BGC program results for requested reports and analysis.

The Weikart Center For Youth Program Quality (PQA) is used as a tool to evaluate the CNG program environment. PQA is a validated instrument designed to measure the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs. It evaluates the quality of youth experiences as they attend classes, complete projects and participate in meetings and regular program activities. For staff, the PQA is a great way to see what is really happening in the program and to build professional competencies. The Weikart Youth PQA assesses areas such as safe & supportive environments, interaction, engagement, youth centered policies & practices and more.

CNG Programs also work with their local school districts to create Data Sharing agreements to share data already gathered by the schools to include standardized test results, report cards, and demographics. Pre- and post-test assessments which focus primarily on the math and reading skills of each student can also be shared. The use of these tools helps measure gains achieved by students and provide a variety of reports for discussion with the staff, parents, in-school-time teachers and administrators.

General Costs

There are a wide range of costs associated with afterschool and summer programs. Programs offering a variety of classes, like CNG, that include academic enrichment and the arts are usually associated with a higher budget.

Each CNG program site can service up to 100 students for after-school and summer sessions representing up to an approximately \$2,500.00 budget per student. This budget is based on an assumption of several in-kind budgetary line items contributed by the local school site and district.