

## **APOST Best Practices in the Focus Areas**

### **GOAL:**

Provide a simplistic set of ACTIONS (*not to be confused with objectives or learning outcomes*) youth will participate in when attending an OST program which defines itself as delivering one or more of the following focus areas:

- Academics
- Athletics & Recreation
- Arts & Culture
- Career Development
- Youth Leadership
- Service Learning
- Social Development
- Health & Wellness

### **PURPOSE:**

1. Offer OST providers with a set of actionable criteria with which to determine their specific focus area

**Scenario:** The Executive Director of “Afterschool ABC” would like to be added to the [www.afterschoolPGH.org](http://www.afterschoolPGH.org) website page which showcases providers who are participating in best practices in career development. However, she is not sure if her program meets the criteria. She visits the website to view a list of the Best Practices to determine whether or not her program is comprehensive enough to be considered.

2. Provide parents/families/community with a simplistic menu of actions that youth will participate in if attending a “career development” OST program.

**Scenario:** Jamal’s mom would like him to participate in an afterschool program that helps him to begin preparing for finding a job and eventually a career. She knows there are OST programs that provide career development but doesn’t really understand what types of activities Jamal would be involved in that will prepare him for finding a job and a career. A neighbor tells her about [www.afterschoolPGH.org](http://www.afterschoolPGH.org) and encourages her to visit it so she can see an easy to read & understand list of career development activities/actions Jamal would participate in if attending the showcased OST Programs.

### **Checklist for Developing Best Practices**

- Is the best practice an action that will be *performed* by the youth and have an observable outcome?
- Is the best practice jargon-free?
- Is the text written on a level easy enough to be understood by a 5<sup>th</sup> grader?