



FACT SHEET

Expanded Learning Information System (ELIS)

Through a grant from the Better Together Fund, Big Thought and Dallas Afterschool are working with SMU’s Center for Research and Evaluation (CORE) to build a single, comprehensive data tool that will support the out-of-school time (OST) ecosystem across Dallas. We are calling this innovative tool the *Expanded Learning Information System (ELIS)*.

What is the Better Together Fund?

Better Together Fund aims to drive large-scale social change by supporting nonprofits that come together in a formal collaboration, for a common purpose, as a way to maximize impact. Sponsorship and oversight of Better Together Fund is provided by its founding steering committee: The Dallas Foundation, Lyda Hill/LH Holdings, Inc., The Meadows Foundation, The Hoblitzelle Foundation and the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. Learn more at <https://www.bettertogetherfund.org/>.



Why did Big Thought & Dallas Afterschool choose to participate in the Better Together Fund?

As leaders in out-of-school time (OST) and enrichment, Big Thought and Dallas Afterschool saw a need to create more efficiencies in the way data is collected and shared. Many OST and enrichment providers collect data for Big Thought, for Dallas Afterschool, and for other entities as well. Yet, these same providers often lack some key data they really need in order to make systematic program decisions and improvements. In addition, the data can take too long to get back to them in order to be truly useful. Finally, the process of data collection these providers were asked to engage in was often times redundant and lacked efficiency. The Better Together Fund provided a logical structure and the necessary resources for our two agencies to work together to solve this systems need by establishing ELIS.

Why are we building ELIS?

The primary objectives behind ELIS are:

- Reduce data collection redundancies currently burdening program providers and intermediary organizations;
- Deliver actionable data frequently enough that program improvements can be made;
- Drive positive outcomes for children, families and communities by supporting data driven decision making, at scale;
- Provide better evidence about what works to key stakeholders, including Dallas ISD, OST providers, backbone organizations, funders, universities, families, and other local and state education agencies including regional school districts and charter organizations; and
- Equip organizations with usable data to support their communications and development needs.

What is ELIS?

ELIS is a comprehensive system of student-level and programmatic data to support Out-of-School Time (OST) and enrichment service providers throughout Dallas. ELIS is also a website where information about programs and students can be accessed: www.ELISdfw.org.

ELIS refers to data **inputs**

- Understanding the OST ecosystem means that data must come from multiple places. ELIS is a tool to efficiently combine information from individual providers throughout the city and from participating ISDs.
- Big Thought and Dallas Afterschool are streamlining the data we are asking OST providers to collect by utilizing a common student survey and a common attendance template.

ELIS refers to data **outputs**

- Big Thought and Dallas Afterschool have collaborated with SMU to develop a secure data dashboard where providers can access both program data (i.e., AQuA quality data, Six Dimension of Quality Teaching and Learning observation data, survey data, etc.) and de-identified and aggregate data about the students they serve. This eliminates the need for an evaluator or researcher to generate the individual reports that providers have typically received. The data that providers have access to will be the same, but the process will be more efficient and the interface more user-friendly.
- The data dashboard will consolidate data across systems allowing providers involved with multiple initiatives (i.e. Dallas City of Learning and Student Outcomes Project) to access and view data in one location.

ELIS refers to **supports** for using this data for improvement

- Merely delivering data to providers is insufficient for improving program quality and student outcomes. Providers and their program staff must be knowledgeable about how to use the data to make iterative changes and improvements to the programs and activities they provide youth. ELIS, therefore, also refers to training, technical assistance, capacity building and professional learning communities where data is reviewed and analyzed.

Who can access ELIS?

ELIS is structured to operate under the Big Thought's Dallas City of Learning project and data sharing agreements. This means that any provider wishing to access data must join and participate in DCOL. OST and enrichment service providers are the target audience for ELIS and hoped to be its primary users.

ELIS is intended for providers who operate direct service programs in OST, meaning students enroll with the provider to participate in programming. At this time, providers working within another service provider's program (e.g., providing periodic enrichment within another program) are not eligible for ELIS.

Subsequent phases of ELIS will also add functionality for funders and policy makers to gain account access to view aggregate systems/sector level data for the initiatives or providers they support.

How is ELIS accessed?

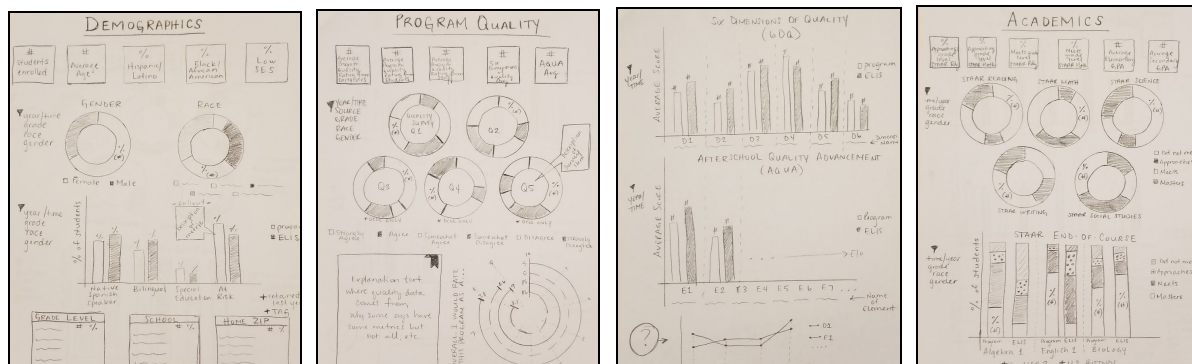
When fully operational (a pilot is planned for Spring 2019), providers will visit www.ELISdfw.org. With a unique log in and accurate credentials, providers will be able to view data about their organizations/programs/sites and their students (aggregated and de-identified), compared to other groups of students. Organizations will be able to have multiple logins, as necessary. Each login can be customized to allow access to specific programs and/or sites.

What kind of data will be accessible through ELIS?

Once logged in, providers will be able to dynamically navigate through a data dashboard. All data will be aggregate and de-identified. No provider will be able to see student names nor ID numbers through this system. Depending on the provider’s affiliation (with either Big Thought and/or Dallas Afterschool) and depending on what data the organization submits – for example, a provider may not collect student surveys—a view of the ELIS dashboard may not have all data elements listed here. The data listed reflects all data possible:

- 1. Attendance at OST program and sites
- 1. Program Quality (i.e., AQUA or Six Dimension of Quality Teaching and Learning)
- 2. Student Surveys and Assessments (i.e., social and emotional learning)
- 3. Other Program Surveys (i.e., Staff or Caregiver surveys)
- 4. Aggregate academic data (if student attends Dallas ISD)

The following are preliminary designs of dashboard elements that providers would see:



My organization partners with several backbone organizations – how will this work for me?

Service providers who are already participating in Dallas Afterschool’s Program Quality Initiative and Student Outcomes Project will continue all aspects of these initiatives. Providers who are already participating in The School Zone’s Professional Learning Communities, facilitated by The Budd Center, will also continue all aspects of these initiatives. Likewise, all providers who are already participating in Dallas City of Learning will continue all aspects of that initiative. The only thing that will change will be invisible to most stakeholders: instead of student-level data flowing through multiple redundant channels, Big Thought and Dallas Afterschool student data will flow through Dallas City of Learning.

Additionally, Big Thought, Dallas Afterschool and The Budd Center are actively working to create efficiencies in the data collection tools utilized across backbone agencies. For example, an attendance reporting template has been created that in a single format meets the reporting needs of all three

entities, eliminating the administrative burden of providers having to enter attendance data into multiple tools/formats. Shared student survey tools are also being developed.

Some providers that utilize ELIS may also be part of The School Zone's Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). The School Zone's PLCs are governed by a separate data sharing agreement from Dallas City of Learning/ELIS that allows review of individually identifiable student data for the strict purposes of planning and improving social sector supports for students. Some providers may access identifiable student level data on a more frequent basis through their PLCs and may also access aggregate, de-identified data twice annually through ELIS using different logins for each project.

We have reduced inefficiencies and miscommunication by piping these data streams into the same front facing website, though on the back end, the data remain separate according to the terms of each data sharing agreement. This means that whether a provider is affiliated with or most identifies with Big Thought, Dallas Afterschool, The School Zone, or another entity, they will all go to the same ELIS website to access shared metrics about OST.

What is the project timeline for ELIS?

There is a multi-phase approach to the development and implementation of ELIS.

- **Planning Phase** - This is the current phase and will extend through September 2019. During this phase we have been focused on front-end process improvements, building and testing functionality, and migrating existing system data from the 2017-18 and 2018-19 program years.
- **Phase 1 (Pilot Implementation)** - Starting in September 2019, a small group of service providers will be invited from a pool of existing Dallas Afterschool, Big Thought and The School Zone partners to pilot ELIS. Pilot participants will reflect a diversity of geographic locations, demographics, and programming types and will be asked to provide feedback on processes, tools and resources.
- **Phase 2 (Full Implementation)** - Contingent on the experience and learning of the pilot group, during the 2019-20 program year a secondary group of service providers already engaged with Dallas Afterschool, Big Thought DCOL, and/or The School Zone will be eligible for participation as well. Our intent is to start inviting small cohorts of additional service providers to access the ELIS on a rolling monthly basis starting in December 2019 through May 2020.

What are the requirements for my organization to be involved?

In order to participate in the ELIS system, a service provider must roster their students into the Dallas City of Learning (DCOL) platform and submit attendance data. Providers will also be expected to attend ELIS related trainings on how to use the system and how to use the data for program improvement. We anticipate that there will be three to four of these trainings per year.

What is required to roster into the DCOL platform?

Rostering into the DCOL platform will require the following:

- 1) Provider registers their organization on the DCOL platform and agrees to applicable terms and conditions;
- 2) Provider lists program(s) on the DCOL platform;

- 3) Provider gathers and submits rostering information on their participants. This information will include name, date of birth, email address and the student identification number, which then allows the system to match students with district data, as available;
- 4) Provider will also be required to submit attendance or dosage data for their participants. Note that this information is an input and will be matched with extant Dallas ISD data only by Dallas ISD employees. The data is “stripped” of identifying information prior to being loaded into ELIS; no identifying information about students who are rostered into DCOL will be accessible through ELIS.

What does the training include? When will it take place?

ELIS data trainings will include a variety of topics ranging from introductory how-to instructions on how to enter data into the system and how to access data from an organization’s system dashboard, along with additional opportunities to explore how to apply this data to identify potential program improvements and build interventions to better serve program participants. Specific training opportunities and dates will be published and communicated to participating service providers as they become available.

How often will the data be updated?

Depending on the data source the timeline for updates to ELIS will vary. The following are estimated frequency of updates. The ELIS website will include a current schedule of data updates to help continually inform service providers.

- 1) Enrollment & Attendance data will be updated quarterly
 - a. Estimated time periods are December, March, June (school year data) and September (summer data)
- 2) Program Quality data will be updated three times a year as applicable (tentatively December, June, September)
- 3) Student Surveys and Assessments, along with their program surveys, will be updated twice a year as applicable (tentatively June, September)
- 4) Aggregate Academic Data will be updated twice a year following requests for student-level data from Dallas ISD. The estimated periods for these updates is early summer and early fall.

How do we define the academic year?

The academic year will begin each fall and run through the spring semester and conclude at the end of each summer (approximately August through July/August).

How does my organization become a participant in ELIS ?

At this time, service providers participating in Phase 1 (pilot implementation) are by invitation only. Participation in Phase 2 (2019-20 academic year) will be open to existing service providers already participating in Dallas City of Learning, Dallas Afterschool’s Student Outcomes Project and/or Program Quality Initiative, and/or The School Zone. The roll out of Phase 2 will be conducted in small cohorts of five to ten service providers, by invitation, on a monthly basis from December 2019 through May 2020.

Is there any fee for using ELIS?

At this time there is no fee for using ELIS. ELIS is a value add for service providers participating in Dallas City of Learning and/or Dallas Afterschool's Student Outcomes Project/Program Quality Initiative.