

The Program in Education, Afterschool & Resiliency

is dedicated to making meaningful theoretical and practical contributions to youth development, school reform and prevention. Dr. Gil Noam founded the program in 1999 as a collaboration between Harvard University and McLean Hospital with a number of community partners. PEAR takes a developmental approach to the study of new models of effective afterschool programming, and incorporates educational, health, public policy, and psychological perspectives.

Project Personnel

PEAR

Gil Noam, Ed.D. / Ph.D. (Habil)
PI

Anahit Papazian, M.P.H.

Ashima Mathur Shah, Ph.D.

ETS

E. Caroline Wylie, Ph.D.

Rutgers University

Drew Gitomer, Ph.D.
Co-PI

Project Liftoff

Jeffrey Buehler

Advisory Board

Kirsten Ellenbogen, Ph. D.
Director of Evaluation and Research in Learning, the
Science Museum of Minnesota

Alan J. Friedman, Ph. D.
Consultant in the areas of museum development and
science communication

George E. Hein, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus
Lesley University Graduate School of Arts and Social
Sciences

Christine Klein, Ph.D.
Principal, Klein Consulting

Diane Miller
Senior Vice President of School and Community
Programs and Partnerships, Saint Louis Science
Center

Tony Streit, MFS
Senior Project Director at Education Development
Center, Inc.

Robert Tai, Ed.D.
Associate Professor at Curry School of Education at
University of Virginia



Development of an Observation Tool for the Informal Science Education Field

is a research project that has been supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) since 2010. The project is a partnership between the Program in Education, Afterschool and Resiliency (PEAR), Educational Testing Services (ETS) and Project Liftoff. The goal of the project is to develop and psychometrically evaluate a program observation tool called Dimensions of Success (DOS). DOS is developed based on National Science Foundation's evaluation framework (Friedman, A. (Ed.). (2008). Framework for Evaluating Impacts of Informal Science Education Projects, Washington D.C.: National Science Foundation), which assesses informal science program quality in afterschool programs, summer programs, museums, field trips, and schools.

Dimensions of Success (DOS) is an observation tool developed to assess informal science program quality in afterschool settings.

Upon completion of the project (1) DOS will be validated as a psychometrically sound evaluation tool, (2) OST programs will be offered an instrument that can be used for quality improvement, and (3) researchers will have access to an assessment tool to study STEM education in OST.

The project team is currently recruiting informal STEM programs

in New England and the Midwest. If your STEM program is interested in collaborating, please see the contacts below:

For New England:

Ashima Mathur Shah
Research Fellow, PEAR
617-484-0466 (ext. 209)
ashah@mclean.harvard.edu

For Midwest:

Jeff Buehler
Director, Project Liftoff
573-882-1564
buehlerj@umsystem.edu

