Conversation Starter on Homework Help

Directions: Use this conversation starter at a staff meeting or other group event as a way to begin a discussion of the homework assistance services of the afterschool program. Have participants complete the form individually, and then share with others. Look for similarities and differences in observations of the program. Try to work for agreement about the goal of the homework assistance activities.

1. Participation in homework assistance in our program is:
   __ Optional
   __ Mandatory
   __ Mandatory for some students

2. Homework Assistance staff members know what the homework assignments are:
   __ Because the students tell them.
   __ Because they have been notified (in person, by note, by phone, or by e-mail) by the classroom teacher.
   __ Because the assignments are listed in a planner.
   __ Other way (explain):
     __________________________________________________________
     __________________________________________________________
     __________________________________________________________
     __________________________________________________________

3. If a student is having problems with a homework concept, afterschool staff primarily will:
   __ Try to clarify the problem.
   __ Urge the student to note on the homework what he or she does not understand.
   __ Share that information (in person, by note, by phone, or by e-mail) with the classroom teacher.

4. What is the goal of our homework assistance program?
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________