



Supporting Schools and their Partners
So Every Child Can Thrive.

May 29, 2015

RE: Over 70 Organizations Support After School Funding Increase

Dear Honorable Members of the State Legislature:

California is by far the nation's leader in providing high-quality after-school programs. The citizens of California passed Proposition 49 in 2002, which provided for a continuous appropriation of \$550 million to expand After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs at elementary and middle schools serving low-income communities. On average, schools with expanded learning programs have over 80% of their students eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. Currently, over 4,000 schools offer ASES programs to more than 400,000 daily students across the state. Research has proven that these programs have a range of positive impacts including improved school attendance, English fluency, academic success, health and nutrition, and important social-emotional skill development. ASES programs are funded according to a formula of \$7.50 per student/per day, for at least 3 hours of daily service. Yet the rate has not changed since 2006, while the cost of living has risen 17%, and increases to the minimum wage and benefits have increased personnel costs substantially.

Over 70 organizations listed below—including school districts, county offices of education, program providers and statewide advocates—and 40 school district and county employees have shown their support through letters and testimony for the long overdue increase to ASES funding. This budget request includes increasing ASES by \$54 million in 2015/16, to raise the funding formula to \$8.50 per student/per day. This funding correction would ensure schools and their community partners' ability to deliver engaging and effective expanded learning services to hundreds of thousands of California students and families with the highest needs and fewest resources.

LIST OF SUPPORTERS OF AFTER-SCHOOL FUNDING INCREASE

**SCHOOL DISTRICTS and
COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION**

Alhambra Unified School District
Compton Unified School District
Empire Union School District
Oakland Unified School District
Summerville School District
Fresno County Office of Education
Lassen County Office of Education
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Merced County Office of Education
San Diego County Office of Education

STATEWIDE ADVOCATES

California Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
California School-Age Consortium
California State Alliance of YMCA's
California State PTA
California Teaching Fellows Foundation
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund – CA
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids California
Mission: Readiness
Partnership for Children & Youth
Temescal Associates
The Children's Initiative

CITIES

Sacramento

COMMUNITY BASED

ORGANIZATIONS/PROVIDERS

A World Fit For Kids!
After-School All-Stars
Alhambra Afterschool Adventures
Anaheim Family YMCA
arc
ASES Imperial Valley
Aspiranet
Bay Area Community Resources
Berkeley LEARNS
Border View Family YMCA
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor
Boys & Girls Club of Garden Grove
Boys & Girls Club of Greater Redlands-Riverside
Boys & Girls Club of Sacramento
California Educational Centers
Central Valley Afterschool Foundation
Citizen Schools
City of Paramount, STAR Program
City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Dept.
Coaching Corps.
EduCare Foundation
EMM
Footsteps Child Care
Give Every Child A Chance

Go Kids.org
ICES Education
Institute for Student Success, Inc.
Kids 1st After School Program
Kids Campus Youth Center
LA's BEST
Lawndale - Realizing Amazing Potential Before & After School Program
LEAP
Mission Valley YMCA
Options for Learning
Para Los Ninos Charter
ProYouth HEART
Reading Partners
Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center
Sacramento START
STARS After-School
Target Excellence
The Campagna Center
The Center
The Jamestown Community Center
THINK Together
Vista Community Clinic
YMCA Coast Central
YMCA of East Bay
YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
YMCA of San Diego County

Staffed primarily by highly qualified paraprofessionals, ASES programs are required to provide rigorous academic content, as well as a broad array of enrichment activities designed to complement core day instruction, at a student-to-staff ratio of not more than 20:1.

Schools and other program providers are finding it increasingly difficult to deliver high-quality services as costs outpace grant revenues and the availability of private funds. Nine out of 10 of nearly 600 programs surveyed report being negatively impacted by flat funding. Programs across the state have been forced to reduce staffing hours and benefits, limit professional development, and abandon specialized instruction. They are struggling to find qualified staff and turn away thousands of underserved families and students in need of these vital learning services.

Increasing the ASES daily rate is an urgent issue that impacts students across the state every day, and that demands the attention of the California State Legislature NOW.