

Protect California's Quality After-School Programs



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Background – California's After-School Programs Benefit 400,000+ Students at 4,000 Schools Daily

California's After School Education and Safety (ASES) program supports over 4,000 elementary and middle schools offering after-school and summer programs to more than 400,000 students daily. These programs operate at the highest poverty schools—those with an average of over 80% of students participating in the free and reduced-price meals program.

After-school programs are essential to closing the achievement and opportunity gap. They provide underserved students with meaningful academic and enrichment activities, keep kids safely off the streets during the prime time for crime by and against children, and offer essential child care for working parents. They also provide a crucial infrastructure for STEM, summer learning, physical activity, and leveraging hundreds of millions of federal dollars for nutritious snacks and meals.

California-specific research has proven that these programs have a range of positive impacts including improved school attendance, English fluency, academic success, crime prevention, improved health and nutrition, and important social-emotional skill development. They are also cost-effective—with \$2 to \$9 dollars saved for every \$1 invested.

The Problem – Increasing Costs and Stagnant Funding Risk Shutting Down Programs and Leaving the Most Vulnerable Kids and Families Without Quality Services

While the costs, demands, and expectations of ASES programs have consistently increased, the funding has remained stagnant for a decade.

- The statutory ADA rate of \$7.50—which experts say is woefully inadequate to run a high-quality program—has not been raised since 2006.
- Over the same time period, the California Consumer Price Index has increased by 17%.
- The state increased the minimum wage by \$1 to \$9 on July 1, 2014 and another \$1 to \$10

effective January 1, 2016, and state law now requires employers to offer 3 days of annual sick leave.

As costs significantly outpace funding, ASES programs have been stretched to their breaking point and find it increasingly difficult to deliver the same high-quality services. According to a recent survey of nearly 600 respondents representing more than 300 school districts:

- 75% of ASES funded programs had to reduce the number of enrichment activities offered, and over 60% reported academic supports were negatively impacted;
- 50% had to reduce staff hours, more than 60% reduced professional development, and over 80% found it more difficult to both attract and retain high quality staff.

Without additional funding, not only will program quality continue to suffer, but also:

- Nearly 50,000 students could lose access to after-school;
- Program hours could be reduced, making it harder for working families to get by;
- Eventually, programs risk being forced to close their doors altogether.

The result: more dropouts, higher crime, more of our most vulnerable students being left behind, and fewer jobs for individuals that minimum wage and paid leave laws are supposed to benefit.

The Solution

A budget increase of \$72 million in FY 2016-17 to the \$550 million ASES budget is needed to raise the daily ASES funding formula from \$7.50 to \$8.50 per student—a 13% increase to offset the \$2 increase in the minimum wage. Also, an annual cost of living adjustment should be adopted to address ongoing future increased costs.

For additional information visit our web page at www.CA3Advocacy.org or email us at info@ca3advocacy.org

Sources:

ASES targets low-income students

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Percentage is for schools with either state or federally-funded after-school programs at all grade levels.

Increased attendance and improved English fluency

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Academic success: Dropout prevention and improved test scores

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Crime prevention

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Physical fitness

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Cost-effectiveness

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Leveraging federal school meals funding

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Cost of living increase

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Survey of ASES programs

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Nearly 50,000 slots lost

If rate increased to \$8.50 without an increase in overall after-school funding, 47,211 students would lose access. Based on \$541.75 million in ASES grants.