

California After School Fact Sheet

Through advocacy and research, Children Now is working to make sure public funds for after school are distributed in a timely and equitable manner; reach the children who need these programs most; and support safe, enriching and enjoyable activities.

After School Programs Have Proven Benefits

Quality after school programs:

- Provide children opportunities for academic success and to develop new skills. Statewide and local evaluations of the state's publicly-funded after school program have found a consistent pattern of positive results on student achievement, attendance, behavior and reductions in grade retention.¹
- Keep children safe during the prime time for violent juvenile crime and for children to be victims of violent crime.²
- Support working families by providing safe, enriching places for children while their parents work. Ninety-four percent of California parents are extremely or somewhat satisfied with the after school program their child attends.³
- Fuel a thriving sector of the state's economy by creating and supporting local jobs in an industry larger than the state's vegetable or livestock industries.⁴

Need for After School Programs Outstrips Supply in California

- Of the 4.4 million elementary and middle school-age children in California, fewer than two million attend after school enrichment or school-age care programs.⁵
- Twenty-two percent of California children in working families are unsupervised in the hours after school.⁶
- More than 38 percent of school-age youth not supervised after school would be likely to participate in an after school program if one were available in the community.⁷
- Parents of children who are not participating in after school programs believe that their children would benefit most from after school programs in the following ways: by staying safe and out of trouble, academic enrichment and improved physical activity.⁸

California's Publicly Funded After School Programs

The major publicly-funded after school grant programs in California are the state's After School Education and Safety (ASES) program, the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program and various state child care subsidy programs.

After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program

The After School Education and Safety (ASES) program was created in 2002 after voters approved Proposition 49, which renamed and expanded what was known formerly as the Before and After School Learning and Safe Neighborhood Partnerships Program. The

ASES program provides funds for before and after school programs to school districts or local government entities. These before and after school programs offer literacy, academic enrichment, computer training, homework assistance, fine arts, youth development, physical fitness or other types of constructive alternatives for students in kindergarten through 9th grade. The funding level for the ASES program in 2003-04 was \$122 million, so only a fraction of the communities that applied for funds received a grant; however, with funds guaranteed by Proposition 49 rolling out in the coming 2006-07 budget year, the funding level will increase by \$428 million. These new dollars, coupled with the program changes proposed in Senate Bill 638(Torlakson), could fund as many as 2,000 new programs for elementary and middle school students, and help improve the quality of all existing ASES programs.

21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st Century) Program

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is a federal grant program that funds before and after school programs for disadvantaged K-12 students. The U.S. Department of Education awards three-year competitive grants to schools, school districts or community-based organizations that apply directly for these grants. States, however, administer these federal grants. California has implemented the 21st Century program at elementary and middle schools to generally parallel the state-funded ASES program. In recent years, 21st Century funds have also supported high school after school programs. Due to the increase in ASES funds for elementary and middle schools and the policy changes in SB 638, half of 21st Century funds in the coming year will be set aside for grants to high school after school programs. The remaining funds will be used for middle and elementary school programs and family literacy, and to support year-round programs and programs with unique access challenges. In 2006-07, California will receive \$163.9 million (\$135.9 million ongoing, \$28 million one time) in 21st Century funding, which it will then distribute to local after school programs.⁹

Proposition 49 and the Current After School Policy Context

In 2003, California voters approved Proposition 49, which would more than triple the amount of state money going to after school programs. Prop. 49 included a fiscal trigger that will be met in the 2006-07 budget year. With the rollout of \$428 million in Proposition 49 funds rapidly approaching, quick and effective implementation is the top priority.

SB 638(Torlakson), co-sponsored by Children Now, is the implementation bill designed to allow for a more rapid distribution of funds and an effective expansion of after school programs. This bill will make a number of changes to the ASES program. It will:

- Streamline the application and secure ongoing ASES funding for current ASES and eligible 21st Century programs for middle and elementary school students;
- Give low-income schools priority for new grants;

- Increase the universal grant amount to \$112,500 for elementary schools and \$150,000 for middle schools;
- Increase the daily per student rate for after school from \$5 to \$7.50 and increase the daily per student rate for before school from \$3.33 to \$5.00;
- Change the funding from a reimbursement-based system to a direct grant program;
- Reduce the required matching funds from one-half to one-third;
- Establish a reasonable system of accountability and assistance for programs that are not meeting the desired goals.

Additionally, SB 638 will dramatically increase the amount of 21st Century program funds dedicated to high school after school programs to 50 percent of the total allocation. It will also incorporate into the 21st Century programs many of the same changes made to ASES.

¹ California Department of Education, University of California at Irvine, *Evaluation of California's After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Program: 1999-2001: Executive Summary*, (Sacramento, CA: California Department of Education and University of California at Irvine, in cooperation with Healthy Start and After School Partnerships Office California Department of Education, February 1, 2002); available at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ba/as/execsummary.asp#fn1>.

² Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, *After-school Programs Reduce Crime During Peak Hours of Violent Juvenile Crime*, available at <http://www.fightcrime.org/> (National data)

³ Afterschool Alliance, *America After 3 PM*.

⁴ California School-Age Consortium, *California Afterschool at a Glance: A Statewide Snapshot of Kids and the Programs that Serve Them*, (April 2004); available at www.calsac.org.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Findings from the *America After 3 PM* household survey are based on parent/guardian responses to survey questions about after school care arrangements during the 2002-2003 school year. The data focus on working families – those in which both parents or the single parent holds a job, and these data are from a California specific sample. GE Consumer Finance and RTi-DFD conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance. Afterschool Alliance, *America After 3 PM*, (Washington, DC, March 2005); available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

⁷ School-age youth refers to children enrolled in school between kindergarten and 12th grade. Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Senate Budget and Fiscal Review, Subcommittee No. 1 on Education, available at <http://www.sen.ca.gov/budget/Sub1/31306Amy.pdf>