



10 Reasons for High School After-School

Because of recent changes to the After School Education and Safety Program, there is significant new funding available for high schools to provide after-school programs for their students. Under the new law, a portion of California's funds from the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding stream will now be reserved for high school after-school programs, under the California 21st Century High School After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) Program. Below are 10 reasons why high school students need after-school programs.

1. After-school activities give youth time to discover and develop their passions. Many a successful musician, journalist, actor or community leader discovered their particular knack during an after-school activity they didn't have time for during the school day.
2. After school is a time for youth to build confidence and connections. At the Youth Together program at high schools in Oakland, Berkeley and Richmond, 90 percent of teen leaders and teen members reported having more positive relationships with adults in their school and improved leadership skills, and 89 percent of teen leaders and 79 percent of teen members felt more connected to their communities as a result of the program.
3. High school after-school programs increase graduation rates. For example, the BlairLEARNS after-school program at Blair High School in Pasadena has been so successful with its after-school "credit reclamation" classes that the school's graduation rate was at 92 percent in June 2005—the highest it has been in 20 years.
4. High school after-school programs decrease crime and increase student safety. For example, a study of the Bayview Safe Haven after-school program in San Francisco revealed that the crime problems in the area of the Bayview Safe Haven recreation center fell, with a police officer noting, "Calls for [police] service have gone down—there used to be probably three or four times [more than] what they are now."
5. Young people spend just 20 percent of their waking hours in school. How they spend the remaining 80 percent of those waking hours can have a significant impact on their overall development.
6. California has created a vibrant and varied world of after-school programs for elementary and middle school students, thereby creating a generation of young people who will expect to be able to fill their afternoon hours with safe, fun, enriching activities as they move into high school.
7. Surveys show that older youth have an eye on life after high school and want to spend their free time in worthwhile activities. After-school programs can provide the extra time for career exploration, skills development, and internships that will prepare high school students for college and beyond.
8. In a recent survey, 86 percent of California teens surveyed said they believe supervised after-school activities help teens stay safe and out of trouble.
9. According to a 2000 survey, 72 percent of California parents with teens believe there are not enough after-school programs in their communities.
10. There are 2,266 high schools in California. Only 66 currently are served by this funding.



10 Reasons for CBOs to Provide After-School Programs

Community-based organizations (CBOs) have a long history of providing California's youth with safe places to go when school is out. Now, with the recent increase in public funding for after-school programs in California, CBOs have a tremendous opportunity to expand that commitment. Thanks to the triggering of Prop. 49, the state's After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program now has \$550 million to offer. California also receives more than \$100 million in federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) funding each year. Both funding streams place an emphasis on community partnerships, creating an avenue for CBOs and schools to work together to provide youth with a safe, enriching place to go after school. Below are a few reasons why community-based organizations should team up with schools to provide after-school programs.

1. Community involvement is essential to program success. The structure of ASES in particular, with its required 33 percent local matching contribution and collaborative planning process, underscores the need for community involvement.
2. California has designated a portion of its 21st CCLC funds to be used for providing programs to high school students, giving schools and CBOs an opening to reach out to a group of students that is often overlooked when it comes to after-school.
3. Many CBOs have a mission or mandate to work with youth but can't offer school-day programming. After-school, however, is where the kids are.
4. After-school programs are an opportunity for CBOs to build their capacity to deliver youth-focused programming and services and connect with their target populations (e.g. school-age, under-served populations, parents and families).
5. Even if CBOs are not part of a school's application, they can subcontract to provide staff or programming for school-based programs. Some school districts may even prefer to subcontract the entire program, including staffing, to a CBO that has extensive experience providing after-school programs and is known in the community.
6. CBOs don't have to run an after-school program to be involved. Programs often need short-term or one-time programming, such as a once-a-week art class. After-school programs also value a number of in-kind resources from partners, including staff and volunteers, materials, curricula, facilities or special events and field trips.
7. Public dollars dedicated to after-school programs will provide sustainable funding. As long as public support for after-school programs remains strong, so will public funding.
8. CBOs can help get new programs started fast. With their inherent flexibility, CBOs are in the best position to help new programs get off the ground and running quickly by contributing matching funds and finding and training staff.
9. These publicly funded programs don't have to be school-based. As long as safe transportation is provided, community-based organizations can house programs in their own facilities.
10. Schools and CBOs need each other. Once a school gets a grant, it will need curriculum, activities, staff and more. A CBO, on the other hand, might have staff and programming ready but lack either funds or access to students.