



What Californians Are Saying About Afterschool Programs

“My vision and goal [is] that, by 2010, every child who needs it has access to an effective and comprehensive afterschool program.”

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

June 6, 2003

“Afterschool programs provide positive outlets for millions of children after the school bell rings.”

Senator Barbara Boxer

February 20, 2003

“The California State PTA believes that high-quality before- and after-school programs for all children and youth can provide engaging and enriching environments that lead to improved academic achievement. Statistics show that such programs also reduce truancy and juvenile crime.

“That’s why I encourage all PTA members to work with their school districts to bring After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) funding to their students. Applying for ASES funding is a great chance for PTA leaders, schools and community organizations to work together to provide quality programs that meet the needs of students, schools and working families.”

Brenda Davis, President

California State PTA

October 2006

“We go to the after-school program at Orville Wright Elementary School. We like the after-school program because we do fun activities. Also, it is fun because we get to go to fun field trips. We also like to play sports like soccer, basketball and other fun activities. They help us with our homework. They also teach us to stay out of trouble and how to be safe.”

Hector Escobedo and Kevin Murillo, students

Modesto Bee

April 12, 2006

“All children need an environment where they can learn, seek guidance and make friends and this is what LA’s BEST gives our children. Learning does not end in the classroom. LA’s BEST teaches children that they can learn outside of school. The program is also successful in keeping our children off the streets and out of harm’s way.”

Former Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn

July 21, 2004

“Having quality youth development programs is critical to breaking the hold of gangs and drugs in our neighborhoods. Working with the police, schools, non-profits, and the faith-based community, San Bernardino must vastly expand its support and number of opportunities for such after school programs.”

San Bernardino Mayor Pat Morris

Excerpt from “Operation Phoenix”

The Mayor’s Crime-Fighting Program for San Bernardino

“I strongly believe that after-school programs are key to the success of many California school children. They provide important academic support, enrichment activities, and a fun and safe environment for students during the crucial hours after school. Studies show that students who participate in quality after-school programs perform better academically and also like attending school more than their counterparts who do not participate in an after-school program.

“As a former classroom teacher and school board member, I have also seen first-hand how these kinds of programs lead to future success. This fall, California school districts will have a unique opportunity to access \$550 million in funding for after-school programs. We encourage you to apply for these funds.”

Jack O’Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

September 2006

“The expansion of the After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) is a tremendous opportunity to increase access to after-school programs in California.

“My parents never finished high school, and they knew they wanted a different experience for me. I attended Los Angeles public schools, and it was because of the patience, support, and personal attention I received from teachers and staff at my schools that I was put on a path to academic success and developed a lifelong love of learning.

“That is the kind of personal attention young people find every day in after-school programs. I have seen after-school’s benefits first-hand, which is why I worked to expand my city’s LA’s BEST after-school program to 16 schools in my district. Studies show that after-school programs not only help students learn, but also keep them safe during the crucial hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

“I want all students to have access to a quality after-school program. I am continuing to work to expand after-school programs in Los Angeles and urge others to do the same in their communities. Strong community partnerships make strong after-school programs, and ASES is a great opportunity for city leaders to help schools and community organizations work together to provide quality after-school programs for the youth they serve. Our young people deserve all the support we can provide for them, so let’s provide them with after-school programs.”

Alex Padilla

Los Angeles City Council Member

Immediate Past President, League of California Cities

September 2006

“...After-school programs keep kids safe in the afternoon hours, a time of day when they are far more likely to be either the victims or perpetrators of crime. That's among the reasons an overwhelming majority of California voters supported Proposition 49's requirement that a small portion of the state budget be directed toward after-school.

“Study after study has demonstrated that after-school programs are a terrific investment in our kids. Scrimping on after-school today would doom us to spending much more money down the road on juvenile centers and prisons....”

John Poch, After-School All-Stars — Greater San Jose

Letter to the editor, *San Jose Mercury News*

March 3, 2006

“It keeps [students] out of trouble. These programs are very effective and very positive. I would love to see it expanded to our school, but like everything else, it's all about money.”

Principal LaVerne Shireman

Garrison Elementary School

Modesto Bee, March 28, 2006

“With the passage of Proposition 49 and the state’s commitment of \$550 million for after-school programs, California is making the country’s largest public investment in after-school programs and a strong commitment to providing quality after-school opportunities for our children.

“As an author of California’s original after-school program in 1998 (AB 2284), I worked with Governor Schwarzenegger and after-school experts to ensure our state was ready to expand high-quality programs statewide this school year. Last week, the Governor signed my bill, SB 638, which streamlines our existing state and federal after-school program design and establishes priorities for Prop 49’s implementation.

“As a result, the After School Education and Safety Program and the federal 21st Century Community Learning Center grants will provide schools and their partners with

a flexible, direct funding source and enable after-school programs to deliver student-driven and life-enriching opportunities for youth in our neediest communities.

“As our nation narrows the school focus to test scores, those educational experiences that make learning fun and encourage resiliency — arts, advanced academics, leadership, sports and more — are disappearing from the school day. I believe that after-school programs return excitement to the learning process. After-school programs provide our children with a safe place to be during after-school hours and have been proven to have positive impact on students’ success in school and life.”

State Senator Tom Torlakson

September 2006

“I believe we need to expand afterschool programs and work together on joint-use to transform schools into genuine neighborhood centers.”

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

State of the City Speech

April 18, 2006

“Research tells us that from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. is the most dangerous time of day for young people – when crime involving youths doubles – as they leave school and return to an empty household or neighborhood street unsupervised. The answer, according to a consensus of experts, is to provide afterschool programs in every community.”

Denzel Washington, Actor and Activist

April 8, 2003