



4 after school

aFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS are proven to keep kids safe, help working families and contribute to academic success, and all of California's children deserve the opportunity to reap those benefits.

**Children
in
high-need
schools
may be
left out.**

Unfortunately, there are more than 900,000 students at approximately 1,400–1,800 “high-need” elementary and middle schools throughout California that currently do not have state-funded after-school programs.*

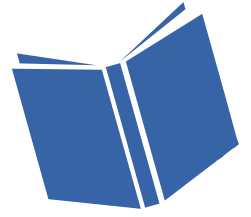
California voters declared their belief that all children in the state should have access to quality, affordable after-school programs by passing Proposition 49, the After School Education and Safety Program (ASES—often pronounced “aces”). By adding \$428 million to the state's budget for after-school programs, Proposition 49 aims to bring more after-school programs to the state's elementary and middle schools. However, high-poverty, high-need schools

may be particularly at risk of not being able to take advantage of the upcoming ASES expansion because of a lack of resources and information.

The funding, with its potential to triple the scale of publicly funded after-school, is currently expected to be released during 2006. This fast timeline means school districts already need to be getting ready to apply for their individual schools. The applications must be made through the district or county office of education, so we are asking advocates to work with the districts and/or the county office of education to make sure that all high-need schools apply for and receive ASES funding.

FOR ASES INFORMATION: WWW.ACT4AFTERSCHOOL.NET

* “High-need” signifies a school with at least 50% of the students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals and students who need extra learning time.



Here's what you can do.

Act 4 After School has compiled lists, by district, of all the state's high-need schools. Contact us at info@act4afterschool.net to receive a list of high-need schools in any district you are interested in helping to build an ASES-funded after-school program.

With this list in hand, we encourage you to talk to district and county office of education officials and find out about the district's plans to apply for and implement ASES in the high-need schools.

If the district is already preparing to apply for all of their schools, or at least all of their high-need schools, then congratulate them! Be sure and let the superintendent, school board and others who are working on the ASES applications know that you appreciate their leadership and want to add your support. (You will find a sample thank-you letter at www.act4afterschool.net, in the Toolkit section.)

Stay in touch with those overseeing the application process to make sure they stay the course. If there is any retreat from a commitment to apply for all the high-need schools, we urge you to undertake an advocacy effort to ensure they understand how much their students would benefit from after-school programs and why now is the time to get prepared.

Answering the questions below will help you create your advocacy plan:

- If the District is not planning to apply for all of the high-need schools, what are the reasons?
- Which high-needs schools will be left out, or have not requested to be included in the application process, and why?
- Who is the district currently working with to facilitate the application and implementation? (California Department of Education regional leads, partnerships, CBOs, etc.)
- Who is bringing what to the planning table? (i.e. Program experience, matching funds, in-kind contributions, etc.)
- What is missing in the application planning process?

When you have the above information in hand, consider who would be good allies for your advocacy efforts:

- Who are the after-school stakeholders in the district already supportive of bringing ASES to all high-need schools? Who could be persuaded to join an advocacy effort?
- Are there potential allies on the school board, in public health, local government or the faith community?
- Are there any unexpected allies in law enforcement and/or business that could help make the case for after-school programs?

Come to an agreement with your allies on these questions:

- What is the best strategy to persuade the district to apply for all high-need schools?
- What are the barriers to ensuring that all of the high-need schools in the district successfully implement ASES, and what can you and your allies do to help address those barriers?

Once you have your advocacy plan, it's time to make your case.

Go to www.act4afterschool.net to find the special tools we have developed to help you reach out to the district officials and the broader community.

In the Toolkit section of our website, you will find sample letters, op-eds and issues briefs on why community leaders should support ASES programs. Use these briefs as leave-behinds when you meet with school officials or offer them to your allies to help inform them.

Look in the Resources section to find links to organizations throughout the state that offer a wide range of resources on advocacy, program implementation, staff development, community partners and technical assistance.

Also, later this summer, Children Now will send a toolkit on applying for ASES to every high-poverty elementary and middle school in California. This toolkit will provide information that will help schools in your area develop a successful application for ASES funding, including valuable tips and insights. Sign up at www.childrennow.org/toolkit to receive a copy of the toolkit when it becomes available.

Check the FAQ section of our website for answers to common questions on ASES. You will also find the latest information on the legislative process as it unfolds. For more updates on ASES and after-school programs in California, sign up to receive our e-mail alerts. If you need additional support in building your advocacy plan, contact us at info@act4afterschool.net.

For all these tools and more, go to www.act4afterschool.net today!

Act 4 After School is a local engagement campaign to encourage high-need school districts in California to apply for funding from the After School Education and Safety Program. It is supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.



10 REASONS TO APPLY FOR ASES FUNDING

aFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS keep kids safe, help working families and improve academic achievement. Parents, principals, law enforcement officers and community organizations are all among the many Californians who see the advantages of after-school. Below are ten reasons why your school or district should apply for ASES funding and provide your students with after-school programs.

- 1.** The After School Education and Safety Program money is not expected to cover all of California's elementary and middle schools. If schools and districts don't get in on the ground floor, the opportunity for new grants might not happen again for two or three years, and kids will be left out.
- 2.** It's about providing a well-rounded education. By making use of the free time students naturally have after the bell rings, after-school programs provide a chance for students to participate in arts, sports and technology activities they might not have time for during the school day.
- 3.** California's K-12 schools need the support after-school programs provide in the form of extra learning and enrichment time that improves academic achievement, reduces grade retention and increases student attendance and interest in school.
- 4.** The hours between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. are the most dangerous for kids. Juvenile crime rates triple, and the lack of supervision makes them more likely to engage in risky behaviors such as drug use and sexual activity.
- 5.** 77 percent of mothers with school-age children are employed, and there are as many as 1.3 million children in California who have no place to go after school.
- 6.** Knowing that their kids are safe and engaged in enriching activities makes parents more productive workers.
- 7.** Every dollar invested in after-school programs will save taxpayers three dollars.
- 8.** 25 percent of California's students are English language learners. After-school programs provide extra time for them to master the language.
- 9.** Voters across party line, demographic group, geography and age overwhelmingly support after-school programs for all.
- 10.** Principals and administrators frequently cite after-school programs as a reason for school improvement and say the benefits of hosting a program outweigh any costs.

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