

CA3 CALIFORNIA AFTERSCHOOL ADVOCACY ALLIANCE



WHO WE ARE

The **California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance (CA3)** is the statewide voice for and expert on expanded learning (afterschool and summer) programs. Consisting of 35 active member organizations and growing, our coalition represents the interests of the children, youth, and their families who rely on publicly funded expanded learning programs throughout California, as well as the vibrant and dynamic workforce that makes these programs so impactful.

CA3 members are expanded learning providers, intermediary organizations, and advocates who specialize in helping students thrive through art, outdoor education, STEM, sports, social-emotional learning, mentoring, tutoring, community service, and more.

Formed in 2009 with a small group of community-based organizations and intermediaries, CA3 has successfully supported the enactment of dozens of legislative, administrative, and budget proposals in California, and paved the way for historic investments of billions of dollars in expanded learning programs and the creation of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P).

WHAT WE DO

CA3 brings together school districts, county offices of education, community-based organizations, law enforcement, local government officials, child advocates, families, students, and other allies to:

- Promote state and federal policies that enhance the quality and accessibility of publicly funded expanded learning programs in California's most underserved communities
- Build public awareness of the essential role of expanded learning programs to support student success
- Ensure expanded learning policy is grounded in practice and equity



"Afterschool programs are so key—now more than ever. They help our kids and allow parents to go back to work!"



Assemblymember Kevin McCarty,
District 6

CA3 MEMBERS OPERATE AND ADVOCATE FOR PROGRAMS THAT:



Are accessible to all students



Offer quality learning opportunities



**Provide all families with safe and
engaging care for their children**

CA3 MEMBERS OPERATE IN NEARLY EVERY REGION OF THE STATE:



**Employ
over 13,000
expanded
learning
staff**



**Serve over
350,000
students**



**Operate on
over 1,900
school
campuses**

WHY WE DO IT

STUDENTS & FAMILIES SERVED BY PUBLICLY FUNDED EXPANDED LEARNING PRIOR TO ELO-P



children of color



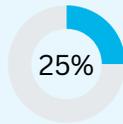
disadvantaged socioeconomically



of parents said they were able to keep their job or take care of other responsibilities because of afterschool programs*



English Language Learners



of students experiencing homelessness were served



of parents said that they would not be able to afford to pay for afterschool services if a free program did not exist*

*According to a 2019 survey.

✓ **Expanded learning programs change lives.** For decades, quality expanded learning programs have proven their value in providing safe, supportive learning environments and enrichment opportunities for students that improve:



Attendance¹



Grades



Graduation Rates



English Proficiency



Social-Emotional Learning



Leadership Skills



Problem-Solving Skills

Students who participate in programs also have lower rates of suspension and expulsion and are less likely to become involved in the criminal justice system or abuse substances. The supports and experiences of expanded learning programs are even more crucial as students continue to contend with the impact of the pandemic.

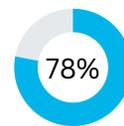
✓ **Community partners are essential to school success.** A majority of school districts in California rely on community-based organizations or municipal/city agencies to run their expanded learning programs. These organizations have deep connections with students and families—a fundamental condition for learning—and better reflect the diversity of students they serve than the current teacher workforce.



people of color



bilingual in English and Spanish²



live in the community they serve

Based on the largest publicly funded afterschool providers in the state.

Community programs also have proven their agility in quickly adapting their services since the onset of the pandemic to meet the various and changing needs of their communities. It will take strong partnerships, resources, and coordination to adequately support students now and for years to come.

✓ **Expanded learning infrastructure provides a strong pathway for young, low-wage workers into public service careers, such as teaching, social services, mental health, and the nonprofit sector.**

The majority of the expanded learning workforce is in one or more part-time jobs and reports pursuing careers in afterschool leadership, teaching, education administration, social services, and school counseling. The teacher shortage and teacher diversity are the most urgent challenges in high-poverty schools, and this is where publicly funded afterschool programs operate, making them uniquely suited to recruit and develop future teachers.

¹ - CDE finds a significant and meaningful difference in school-day attendance for students in all program types and most grade levels.

² - Data for largest publicly funded afterschool provider, serving 40,000 children daily.

CHALLENGES

Though California has built a robust expanded learning system, several challenges threaten this system and the students and families it serves:

Ongoing funding and cost-of-living adjustments are critical to recruit and retain staff. Even before the pandemic, expanded learning providers had trouble recruiting and retaining staff—teachers, paraprofessionals, and community partners—due to low wages. Most providers are still working to get back to pre-pandemic staffing levels. With the current rates for expanded learning programs and high inflation, most programs have been barely able to pay minimum wage rates, let alone the January 2023 increased rate (\$15.50) and definitely not at the levels of competing employers (fast food companies can offer up to \$22). High staff turnover makes it hard to build the positive staff-child relationships that are the foundation of student learning and social development.

Not all students have equitable access to expanded learning programs right now. The vast majority of funding for expanded learning programs is directed toward younger students, leaving out middle school and high school students who would strongly benefit from participating in programs. Unfortunately, fewer than 25% of high schools in California receive any state or federal funding for afterschool programs, and even when ELO-P reaches full implementation (at \$5 billion), less than 2% of total afterschool funding in the state will be dedicated to high school students. Providing equitable opportunities for middle and high school students is a vital component in addressing pandemic recovery and learning acceleration for California's students.

There are very limited full-time positions and career pathways for the expanded learning workforce. Staff who desire to remain in this field have few options for promotion and there are only 3 days of paid professional development. Since most positions are part-time, most staff do not have access to benefits, leaving the workforce without safety nets.

RECENT ADVOCACY

- Increased funding for ELO-P, from \$1.7B to \$4B ongoing, and increased unduplicated per-pupil rates
- Added \$5 million in technical assistance for the System of Support for Expanded Learning
- Influenced \$7.9B for Learning Recovery Emergency Block Grant (expanded learning is a listed priority)
- Bipartisan legislative support for AB 2501 (Carrillo, 2021) to create a universal afterschool workgroup to address implementation challenges for ELO-P; bill held in Senate Appropriations Committee
- Bipartisan legislative support for AB 2507 (McCarty, 2021) to protect and prioritize a portion of existing expanded learning funds for middle and high school youth; bill held in Senate Appropriations Committee
- 58 Assembly offices and 29 Senate offices visited during the 2021 statewide advocacy day

PAST LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET WINS

- Secured cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for state-funded afterschool programs through the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program:
 - \$50 million in 2017 after a decade of flat state funding and rising operational costs
 - \$50 million in 2019
 - \$95 million in 2021

These increases brought ASES funding from \$7.50 to \$10.18 per student per day.





"Having the opportunity to collaborate with other expanded learning providers has helped BACR build stronger partnerships to advocate with like-minded people on behalf of the communities we serve. As we navigate the years of recovery ahead of us, CA3 offers expanded learning agencies a voice and a partnership towards an even stronger expanded learning community in California."



Mariana Lopez Quintanilla,
Program Director - Marin County,
Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)

WE BELIEVE

- All students should have access to high-quality expanded learning opportunities
- Student and family voice is critical; programming needs to meet their needs
- Community voice needs to be included
- Collective action is necessary



CA3 MEMBERS:

A World Fit for Kids!
After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles
arc
BASE Programs
Bay Area Community Resources
Bright Futures for Youth
California AfterSchool Network
California Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
California School-Age Consortium
California State Alliance of YMCAs
California Teaching Fellows Foundation
Children Now
Community Youth Ministries
EDMO

EduCare Foundation
Envisioneers
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
Great Public Schools Now
Heart of Los Angeles
Innovate Public Schools
InPlay
Keep Youth Doing Something
LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program
LA Boys and Girls Clubs Collaborative
LA Conservation Corps
LA STEM Collective
Mission: Readiness
Partnership for Children & Youth*

Sacramento Chinese Community
Service Center
STAR Inc.
Team Prime Time
The Children's Initiative
Think Together
Woodcraft Rangers
YMCA of San Diego County

*A founding member of CA3, PCY serves as the coordinating entity for the alliance.

Learn more: ca3advocacy.com | Contact: ben@partnerforchildren.org

