





June 8, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
 Governor of California
 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose \$100 million cut to After School Education & Safety Programs

Dear Governor Newsom,

We thank you for your leadership in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and appreciate the difficult decisions involved with balancing the budget in the current climate. You rightly pointed out the need to mitigate learning losses, provide social and emotional support to students, keep our public education system strong, and provide subsidized child care so parents can return to the workforce. However, your proposed cut to afterschool programs is inconsistent with this statement, and would be a huge setback for children and families in California who are already disproportionately affected by the current crisis. These families depend on afterschool programs to provide critical care and support for their children, which will be even more vital as parents go back to work and students are likely on adjusted school schedules. With the proposed cut, programs will be forced to scale back services for students and may be forced to close altogether. **One thing is clear: fewer students and families will be served at the very moment they need these programs most.**

If afterschool programs, which serve almost 400,000 students every day, are cut by the proposed \$100 million dollars, we expect that:

- 62,563 children will lose their afterschool program
- Each of these children will miss out on 540 hours of learning time, child care, safety, and social-emotional support
- Over 5 million meals that vulnerable children depend on will not be served

Afterschool programs, like child care programs, are essential to the economic recovery of our state, and are critical to keeping low-income parents in the workforce, which is more important than ever given the COVID-19 recession. You understand this need, as was evident in [your statements on April 30](#): “Child

care is economic development...[We] can't have a workforce unless [parents] are taking care of their children and are confident in the quality of that care . Afterschool programs enable hundreds of thousands of low-income parents to work by providing a safe and supportive place for their children, they also employ a workforce of over 30,000.

Schools are counting on afterschool programs to help fill the gaps of supervision and educational supports this fall. As our communities continue to fight COVID-19, schools will likely modify their schedules and afterschool programs need to stand ready to help cover hours and days when students are not in class. When students return to school, they will have faced unprecedented levels of social disconnection, physical and mental health challenges, and learning losses as a result of this pandemic. Afterschool programs, proven to advance students' social, emotional, and academic well-being, are critical in providing a consistent connection with caring adults to help students overcome these obstacles. Afterschool programs also mitigate learning loss, improve school attendance and graduation rates, develop workforce skills, and prevent crime and substance abuse. Schools and afterschool programs must have the ability to continue working together to support students and communities.

Afterschool programs are essential to reducing heightened educational disparities throughout California. Afterschool programs operate in communities with the highest levels of poverty and serve families who have been hit hardest by COVID-19:

- 84% of children in afterschool programs in California are economically disadvantaged.
- 9 out of 10 children in afterschool programs are children of color.
- 1/3 children in After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs are English learners.
- 25% of California's homeless students depend on our state's afterschool programs.

The current crisis is disproportionately affecting the children and families who attend California's publicly funded afterschool programs, and now is *not* the time to reduce service.

Before COVID-19, afterschool programs were already stretched to their breaking point after years of rising costs. Each time the state minimum wage increases without additional funding from the state, afterschool programs sink deeper into deficit. Since 2007, the state minimum wage has increased 62%, but funding for afterschool has only increased 18%. That increased funding (\$100 million in total), secured by the Legislature over the last 4 years, was enough to just keep afterschool program doors open given the rising minimum wage. The state currently spends less than \$3.00 an hour for afterschool care for our most vulnerable students. We appreciate that you want to direct one-time funding to address learning loss in this budget but instead of investing in afterschool and summer programs, which are proven to help mitigate these losses, you propose a \$100 million cut.

This budget would cut the number of vulnerable children who are able to access care, meals, and learning time. We need to ensure that afterschool programs can pay staff at least minimum wage, provide the support children and schools need to respond to COVID-19, and enable parents to go back to work and help restart the economy. **Please act to keep this vital safety net intact.**

Sincerely,

California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance (CA3)
A World Fit for Kids!
After School Enrichment Program
After-School All-Stars, Los Angeles
Alliance for Boys and Men of Color
Alvord Unified School District
Arc

ASES Blue Lake Union School District
Association of California School Administrators
Bay Area Community Resources
BOOST Collaborative
Boys & Girls Clubs of Carson
California Afterschool Network
California Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
California School-Age Consortium
California State Alliance of YMCAs
California Teaching Fellows Foundation
Californians for Justice
CalSERVES
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County
Center for Fathers and Families
Children Now
Citizen Schools California
City of Moreno Valley
Community Health Councils
Community Youth Ministries
Creative Brain Learning
Delhaven Community Center
Dorris Dann Kids Campus
East Palo Alto Charter School
EduCare Foundation
Edventure More (EDMO®)
End Child Poverty California
Fight Crime: Invest in Kids
Future Unique Enthusiastic Lead (FUEL)
Gang Alternatives Program
Grace Institute
Heart of Los Angeles
How Kids Learn Foundation
ICES Education
Improve Your Tomorrow College Academy
InPlay
Keep Youth Doing Something, Inc.
KIPP Philosophers Academy
KIPP Scholar Academy
KIPP SoCal Public Schools
LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program
LACER Afterschool Programs
Live Oak School District Child Development Programs
Los Angeles Conservation Corps
Mission: Readiness
Monterey Peninsula Unified School District
Mt. Diablo C.A.R.E.S. After School Program
New Heights Charter School
New LA Charter School
New LA Elementary School
Oakland Unified School District
Para Los Niños

Partnership for Children & Youth
Pasadena LEARNs After School Program
PolicyLink
Prescott Circus Theatre
ProYouth
PUC Schools
Reach for the Stars Whittier City School District
Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center
S.A.F.E Afterschool Program
Safe Passages
San Francisco Beacon Initiative
Save the Children
Skillastics
STAR Education
Student Success Institute
Sun Terrace Elementary STEM Magnet School
Team Prime Time
Temescal Associates
The Children's Initiative
The Education Trust – West
The Kitchen Real Estate
Think Together
TLC Afterschool program – School site Montvue Elementary
Willits Kids Club
Woodcraft Rangers
YMCA of Greater Long Beach
YMCA of San Diego County
Youth Alliance

cc: Assembly Speaker Rendon
Senate President pro Tempore Atkins
Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittee Members
Ben Chida, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Joey Freeman, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Jenny Johnson, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Giannina Perez, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor