



February 21, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov

The Honorable John Laird
Chair, Budget & Fiscal Review, Subcommittee No.
1 on Education
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: SBUD.Committee@senate.ca.gov

The Honorable Phil Ting
Chair, Budget Committee
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: Budgetsub6@asm.ca.gov

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Budget, Subcommittee No. 2 on Education
Finance
California State Assembly
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via email: BudgetSub2@asm.ca.gov

RE: SB 86 – SUPPORT (with Suggested Amendments)

Dear Chairs:

The California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance (CA3) – a network of expanded learning (afterschool and summer) program providers and child advocacy organizations – supports the Governor’s proposed funding for expanded learning time and SB 86 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review). However, we urge you to consider our proposed amendments.

For years, expanded learning (afterschool and summer) programs have played an essential role in providing social-emotional, academic, and other support services to students and families, especially in communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, the expanded learning workforce was called to the frontlines to serve schools and communities in new ways – supervising children of essential workers and other vulnerable students while schools were closed, finding lost students and re-engaging families, delivering technology and distance learning resources, ensuring families are fed, and providing social-emotional and academic support virtually. As schools prepare to reopen, we appreciate the Legislature and Governor’s efforts to fast-track proposals for crucial expanded learning time and support.

To ensure expanded learning investments reach the students who need it most as quickly and as effectively as possible, we urge the Legislature and Governor to:

Ensure LEA's partner with community-based organizations

Reopening schools and student recovery will require an all-hands-on-deck approach that [prioritizes](#) expanded learning time and [values](#) community partnerships. Youth-serving community-based organizations can effectively partner with teachers and other school staff to provide academic, social and emotional supports, and enrichment activities that complement school-day instruction. Community-based partners, staffed by a diverse workforce that is often from the communities they serve, have deep relationships with families that can help identify and reengage disconnected students. **LEAs should be required, not “encouraged” to engage with community partners.** [Research](#) shows that access to strong relationships with caring adults is one of the most important factors to student engagement and success. Community-based program staff live in the same communities as the students they serve and are the best prepared to gain trust with kids and families, and play an important role in addressing learning and social and emotional needs. Please ensure Local Education Agencies (LEAs) [engage, plan, and implement](#) expanded learning investments with community partners at the table.

Utilize expanded learning staff for one-on-one tutoring

Current language limits one-on-one tutoring to be led by certified or classified educators, which is the wrong approach to getting necessary academic supports to all the students who will need them. Especially this summer, we cannot assume teachers will want to work, and, we are seeing record retirements in the teaching profession. This could result in a big shortage of eligible staff to provide tutoring. In addition, expanded learning staff are trained and skilled at providing tutoring support to students and need to be tapped for this role.

We look forward to continued discussion and refinement of these expanded learning proposals. Please contact Jen Dietrich at (510) 830-4200 x1615 or jdietrich@partnerforchildren.org if we can be of further assistance of if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance

cc: Senator Dave Min
Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
Assemblymember Vince Fong
Assemblymember James Gallagher
Assemblymember Alex Lee

Assemblymember Jose Medina
Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell
Assemblymember Eloise Gomez Reyes
Assemblymember Suzette Martinez Valladares
Assemblymember Gonzalez
Megan Baier, Education Consultant, Office of President Pro Tem Toni Atkins
Elisa Wynn, Consultant, Senate Budget Committee
Misty Feusahrens, Special Assistant to the Speaker, Office of Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Erin Gabel, Consultant, Assembly Budget Committee
Joey Freeman, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
Brianna Bruns, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

[1] “Expanded learning means before school, after school, summer, or intersession learning programs that focus on developing the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests of pupils through hands-on, engaging learning experiences. It is the intent of the Legislature that expanded learning programs are pupil-centered, results drive, include community partners, and complement, but do not replicate, learning activities in the regular schoolday and school year.” [EDC § 8482.1](#)