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AB 2507 (McCarty) Youth Afterschool Programs
FACT SHEET

Sponsor: Partnership for Children and Youth
Staff Contact: Sierra Cook, (916) 319-2007
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SUMMARY

Quality afterschool programs provide a safe and engaging place that promote the physical, social, emotional, and academic growth of students of all ages. However, the vast majority of funding for afterschool programs is directed towards younger students, leaving out older youth who would strongly benefit from participating in these programs.

AB 2507 will ensure an appropriate portion of existing state and federal afterschool funding is prioritized for older youth as California progresses towards its goal of providing universal afterschool.

BACKGROUND

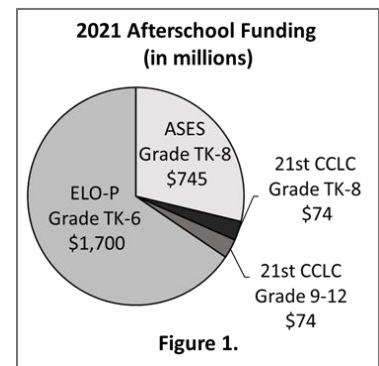
Students who participate in quality afterschool programs are more likely to graduate high school, have lower rates of suspension and expulsions, and are less likely to become involved in the criminal justice system or substance abuse. Many of these positive outcomes are particularly impactful for youth in middle and high school.

Research shows that older youth who participate in afterschool programs demonstrate improved academic success, career preparation, and social and emotional development compared to youth who did not participate. An evaluation of afterschool programs for high school students in California showed that participating students scored higher on standardized tests and had better attendance at school than their peers, demonstrating that afterschool programs can be an effective tool for student reengagement. This is critically important in the wake of COVID-19, which resulted in dramatic decreases in student attendance and engagement.

The benefits of afterschool programs to older youth reach well beyond the school day, offering avenues to college and the workplace by providing opportunities

to develop and use technology, and promoting cross-cultural understanding, collaborative thinking, and leadership. Programs are especially crucial in reaching young people who are at risk of disengagement as they transition from middle school to high school and are searching for meaningful academic, vocational and recreational activities that keep them invested in their own success.

California provides funding for afterschool through three programs: (1) The 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program (21st CCLC), (2) The Afterschool Education and Safety Program (ASES), and (3) The Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELO-P), or “universal afterschool” program. ELO-P was created in the 2021 Budget Act and funded at \$1.7 billion, with a commitment to grow funding to \$5 billion by 2025. As shown in Figure 1, the vast majority of current afterschool funding is prioritized for grades TK-6, leaving out older youth who would greatly benefit from access to these programs. Only 2.8% of total afterschool funding in the state is dedicated for high school students.



SOLUTION

AB 2507 protects access to quality afterschool programs for youth in middle and high school, by earmarking 100% of future 21st CCLC funding, to be initiated with the next funding cohort, and 30% of ASES funding towards youth in grades 7-12. California’s middle and high-school students deserve to have a safe, enriching place during after school hours, where they can develop skills and relationships that will help them succeed in school, career, and life. As the state’s investments in universal afterschool programs grow, AB 2507 will ensure that older youth maintain access to these beneficial programs.