

# Families Need Afterschool Programs

Parents with children in After School Education & Safety (ASES) programs were surveyed to learn what the program means to their family, with results demonstrating the critical importance of these programs.

## Afterschool programs support students with the greatest needs and fewest resources

### Afterschool programs provide academic support that helps close the achievement gap

98% of parents agree that having **a safe place with learning activities** where their children can go afterschool is very important to them.

90% of parents agree that their child **attends school more regularly** because of their afterschool program.

*"My kids get homework done daily. The teachers have told me that my kids are doing better in class because of LA's BEST."*

—Carlos Vaquerdano, Parent,  
Hart St. Elementary.

### Afterschool programs keep students from going hungry

22% of parents report that their child **would not have access to a meal** without their afterschool program.

75% of students in ASES programs **qualify for free-and-reduced-price meals.**

400,000 students in afterschool programs across California **receive a free and nutritious meal** each afternoon.

*"If it wasn't for our supper program, some of our kids simply wouldn't get three proper meals every day."* —Monica de la Cruz,  
Site Coordinator, Westminster Elementary

### Afterschool programs provide enrichment opportunities that all students need, but not all families can afford

48% of parents reported that their child **would not have access to a sports program** without afterschool.

47% of parents report that their child **would not have access to an arts or music program** without afterschool.

*"Afterschool allows our kids to get so much more outside the classroom—art, science, and more."*

—Rene Ridinger, Parent,  
Valley View Elementary

### Afterschool programs keep kids safe

73% of parents rated '**a safe environment**' as the most important factor when choosing to enroll their child in afterschool.

More than half of parents reported **worrying about gangs** in their neighborhoods.

1 in 3 parents reported **worrying about high crime and a lack of safe places** in their neighborhoods.

*"Our students need a safe environment between the end of school and being picked up by their parents."*

—Luis Rivera, Principal, Hawaiian Elementary

### Working parents rely on afterschool programs

98% of parents agreed that they are able to **keep their job or take care of other responsibilities** because their children are in a safe afterschool program.

58% of parents reported that they would have to **cut the number of hours they work;**  
26% reported that they would have to **stop working completely** if they lost access to their afterschool program.

*"I am a single mother and need afterschool programs for my son. I am a working parent and don't have any person to pick my son up after school."* —Liliana Villasenor, Parent, Griffin Elementary

**89% of parents reported that they would not be able to afford to pay for afterschool services if a free program did not exist**

### 78% of afterschool programs have or plan to decrease the enrichment opportunities they offer

Within the LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program alone, **12,000 students could lose access to sports programs** and **6,000 students could lose access to arts programs** by fiscal year 2019-20.

### 66% of afterschool programs statewide have or plan to decrease academic supports for students

LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program projects reducing professional development for new staff to 10 hours (from 30) in fiscal year 2019-20, leaving only time for basic legal requirements and **eliminating training** on facilitating learning and classroom management.

**Nearly 1 in 4 afterschool programs statewide are projected to close their doors in 2020, denying access to over 91,000 students**

Parent survey data was collected from a representative survey of more than 1,000 parents with students participating in LA's BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program in February 2019. For more detail, please contact [Laura.Beebe@lacity.org](mailto:Laura.Beebe@lacity.org). Afterschool program provider data was collected from a statewide survey of 462 providers in December 2017. For more detail, please contact [jdietrich@partnerforchildren.org](mailto:jdietrich@partnerforchildren.org).

