

Statewide Survey Says

Rising Costs Continue to Threaten After School Programs



After School Education and Safety (ASES)

programs serve hundreds of thousands of students across California and operate in the highest poverty communities.

For just \$8.19 per student per day, they provide critical learning supports to students and families for 3 hours/day, 180 days/year.

4,200 elementary & middle schools

400,000 students daily

Over 75% free & reduced lunch

While the costs, demands, and expectations of ASES programs have consistently increased, the funding has not kept pace for over a decade.

2007 — 2019

CA Minimum Wage ↑ 50%

CA Consumer Price Index ↑ 30%

Proposition 98 Education Funding ↑ 45%

ASES ↑ 9%

In 2016, 92% of program providers surveyed had been negatively impacted by the flat funding for ASES.

In December 2017, we asked after school providers to tell us the impact of the recent \$50 million increase after a decade of flat funding. With 370 responses from ASES providers, representing more than 200 school districts, here are the results:



The Budget increase is making a difference today.

86%

have experienced or know of planned positive changes because of increased state funding.

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My coordinators finally feel like they can plan and dream for their students.



Increased funding supports our workforce.

Top 4 improvements cited:

- enrichment opportunities
- professional development
- academic supports
- staff salaries

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Having a more competitive pay rate has brought more qualified staff, which improves program quality.

Students are [now] more engaged and progressing in all subjects.



ASES program doors remain open.

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Our program had been operating at a deficit due to financial pressures. The additional funding is helping us get back on an even keel and restore to where we should be.

This is not a positive change, but just getting back to normal.

Despite an increase, California's high-quality after school system is still threatened by a compounding problem.

98% will be negatively impacted by the time the state minimum wage hits \$15

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Before hitting [a] \$15 minimum wage, we will have to decrease our student and staff numbers dramatically, leaving many students with no help after school and nowhere to go.

The after school funding crisis has been delayed, but is still on the horizon. Without additional funding to accommodate further increases in the state minimum wage, providers told us:

84%

will have difficulty attracting and retaining quality staff

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Fewer staff means fewer kids served.

We are competing with employers who require less skill, less commitment, and very little emotional investment compared to working in after school.

Respondents will have to make decreases in:

78% enrichment opportunities

70% professional development

66% academic supports

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Without increased funding, we cannot provide enrichment materials or activities that our low-income and at-risk youth do not have access to elsewhere.

Nearly half

- ▶ will not be able to meet the demand of students on the waiting list
- ▶ will have to reduce the number of students currently served

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We have programs with up to 160 students on a wait list. When families don't have childcare, parents can't work (or kids are left in unsafe situations).

22%

will have to close their doors in the next 2 years, denying access to about 91,000 students.

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At risk of shutting down? Absolutely. We won't be able to serve all students due to the limitation on the number of staff we could hire...the staff we do hire would be difficult to retain as their hours would be at the very minimum possible.

In Summary:

The financial relief of the \$50 million increase in 2017 is severely undercut by the annual rising state minimum wage. Without additional state funding, California students, families, and communities will experience:

- ▶ **Larger achievement and opportunity gap**—Students in underserved schools will lose hundreds of additional learning hours that are essential to leveling the playing field.
- ▶ **Financial hardship for working families**—Reduced access (fewer slots and increased waitlists) to free or low-cost after school programs means working families will have to pay market rate for alternative child care or reduce their own work schedules to look after their children.
- ▶ **Higher crime rates and drug use**—Reduced access also means that high-poverty communities, where families cannot afford alternative child care or work schedules, will have more unsupervised children on the street during the prime time for crime by and against children.
- ▶ **Reduced education workforce**—When after school programs cannot afford to pay hard-working and diverse educators a fair wage, those educators are driven into other fields, exacerbating the education workforce shortage.

It is critical for the success of our students, families, and communities that we continue to support after school programs by increasing the ASES daily rate to meet staffing and operations costs.

About the survey:

In December 2017, the Partnership for Children & Youth distributed their third-annual [online survey](#) to expanded learning programs across the state to measure the impact of the current ASES daily rate against increasing cost pressures. 462 after school providers completed the survey, 81% (370) of whose programs receive ASES funding. The survey respondents represented more than 215 school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools reflecting the diversity of the state; urban to rural districts, multi-district to single school programs, and programs operated both by districts and community-based organizations. For additional survey results and quotes from after school providers, contact Jen Dietrich at jdietrich@partnerforchildren.org.

For more information on the campaign to increase funding for ASES, visit www.SaveAfterSchool.com

