

April 12, 2019

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Roth
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #1
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support Afterschool Funding Increase

Dear Budget Subcommittee Chairs and Members:

Propel L.A. and the LA County Economic Development Corporation urges you to provide critical funding to the After-School Education and Safety (ASES) program to keep children learning and keep parents working. The state made an important investment in afterschool to help children and families rise out of poverty, making California a national leader in afterschool. But without sustainable funding, this program that so many families rely on is at risk.

Propel L.A. is the team that is supporting the implementation of the 2016-2020 Los Angeles Countywide Strategic Plan for Economic Development. Within the Plan's first goal to "Invest in our People," there are strategies to support greater student learning and achievement, and specifically, to expand after school programs. We understand what a critical role after school programs play – especially for those kids from low income families – in providing tutoring and mentoring, academic enrichment and personal development that weave into the longer-term goal of helping these children become self-sufficient and productive members of our larger community.

Today, ASES serves more than 400,000 students in 4,200 schools each day. ASES programs improve school attendance and reduce dropout rates, while providing critical child care for working parents. ASES programs promote career exploration and prepare youth for the jobs of tomorrow. They help English Language Learners transition to proficiency, build social-emotional skills, serve nutritious meals, reduce crime involving children, and prevent substance use and abuse. They are cost effective—with \$2 to \$9 saved for every \$1 invested.

But insufficient state funding is stretching ASES programs to their breaking point. ASES remains a state categorical program that was not folded into the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), and ASES needs relief from the impacts of the state-imposed minimum wage increases. Since ASES was implemented, the state minimum wage has increased 50% (as of January 2019), while the Average Daily Attendance rate for ASES has only increased 9%. This deficit will continue to grow as the state minimum wage and cost of living continue to increase.

If the Legislature and Governor do not increase funding for ASES, nearly 1 in 4 programs expect to close their doors in 2020 and approximately 91,000 students would lose their afterschool program. These underserved students and families would lose a reliable and effective support that helps children succeed in school, helps parents keep their jobs, and ultimately, helps our communities rise out of poverty.

ASES programs support children and families in the highest poverty communities across California and in Los Angeles County to ensure that all students get the skills, experiences, and support essential for all children's development and future. Youth experiencing homelessness or in foster care are given priority enrollment in ASES programs.

Please support an additional \$112.8 million in ongoing funding for ASES starting in FY 2019-20 and AB 1725 (Carrillo) to keep ASES programs open for the students and families that rely on them, and a funding mechanism to protect the state's investment in ASES with future state minimum wage and cost of living increases.

Sincerely,

Marianne Haver Hill

Marianne Haver Hill
Executive Director, Propel LA

CC:

Senate President pro Tempore
Assembly Speaker
Senate and Assembly Budget Chairs
Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Members
Senate and Assembly Education Chairs and Members
Senate and Assembly Appropriation Chairs and Members