



# WHY SHOULD THE STATE SAVE AFTER SCHOOL?

## WE HAVE OVER 400,000 REASONS.

### Background:

California’s After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs serve more than **400,000** students daily from **4,000** elementary and middle schools. These programs deliver meaningful academic and enrichment activities, keep kids safely off the streets during the prime time for crime involving children, and offer essential child care for working parents. These programs operate at the highest poverty schools—those with an average of over **80%** of students participating in the free and reduced-price meals program.

While the costs, demands, and expectations of ASES programs have consistently increased, the funding has remained stagnant for a decade. Since 2007, the California Consumer Price Index has increased 19%, the state minimum wage has increased 33%, and state law now requires employers to offer 3 days of annual sick leave. Over the same time period, the ASES daily rate of \$7.50 per student has not increased and there has been no cost of living adjustment.

**We asked the after school field to tell us about the impact of nearly a decade of flat ASES funding, almost 700 responses later, here are the results:**

# 92%

of respondents have been negatively impacted by the flat funding.

# 29%

are very likely to close in the next two years without an increase in the daily rate.

# 86%

find it more difficult to attract and retain highly qualified staff.

# 64%

of respondents have reduced staff hours.

“Most babysitters are requesting **\$10-15** per hour to care for a child. Yet, ASES grantees continue to receive only **\$7.50/day** for three hours of care.”

“We are running a deficit of approximately **\$40,000** from the ASES sites.”

“We have had a 70% staff turnover rate since September, which makes it difficult to have quality staff.”

“Our Site Coordinators used to be full time, benefited staff, but now we’ve had to reduce hours and not offer benefits.”

The Partnership for Children & Youth works to ensure that California’s most underserved children and youth have access to high quality educational opportunities that prepare them for a successful future by bridging school districts, community organizations, and government agencies. To learn more about our work, visit our website: [www.partnerforchildren.org](http://www.partnerforchildren.org).



## Survey:

In February 2016, the Partnership for Children & Youth, distributed our second-annual online survey to expanded learning programs across the state to measure the impact of the current ASES daily rate with increasing cost pressures, including the second minimum wage increase that went into effect January 1, 2016. 676 respondents completed the survey, 95% (631) of whose programs receive ASES funding. 72% (455) of the respondents took the time to fill out descriptive responses directly speaking to the specific negative impacts in their community. The survey respondents represented more than 250 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 the full survey results and additional quotes from service providers, visit [www.partnerforchildren.org/2016ASESSurvey](http://www.partnerforchildren.org/2016ASESSurvey).

# 74%

of respondents have reduced the number of enrichment activities offered.

# 69%

cite a reduction in professional development.

# 64%

are not able to meet the demand of students on the waiting list.

# 35%

of respondents are serving fewer kids than last year.

“We have not been able to take our students on a single field trip in over 4 years.”

“Reducing hours has made it impossible to provide necessary staff training to support new state standards and programs like dual immersion.”

“We currently serve approximately 3,200 students daily with waiting lists totaling approximately 1,000+.”

This figure represents a 46% increase from the same question on last years survey.

### Implications for California Students, Families, and Communities:

- Negative Impacts to underserved schools and communities are worsening rapidly – the extremely high and consistent survey response rate as well as **significant increases in reductions and cuts** in only one year demonstrates the urgent need for legislative action.
- **Reduced program quality** – fewer students served means more high-poverty communities have students with nowhere to be after school, exacerbating an already significant unmet need.
- **Reduced access and safety**– more high-poverty communities have students with nowhere to be after school, exacerbating an already significant unmet need.
- Hard-working and diverse educators are being pushed out – workers are having their **hours and benefits cut**, and being forced to leave a high need sector.
- In less than two years, **hundreds of thousands of students** could be left with nowhere safe to go after school, no tutoring, no access to healthy meals, no access to sports/music/art, and fewer caring adults to support their educational success.

For the latest information on the ASES campaign, as well as resources and advocacy tools, visit [www.saveafterschool.com](http://www.saveafterschool.com)