

AFTER SCHOOL BUDGET REQUEST Talking Points

1. **Thank you** – for prior support of after school programs. Last year, the Legislature gave the first increase for after school in over a decade which helped stop program closures, but it was only half of what we needed and why we need more funding this year.
2. **Support the Assembly’s proposal of \$76.3 million for after school** (After School Education and Safety Program – ASES)
3. **State investment is lagging** – Last year’s increase was only enough to raise the funding formula from \$7.50 to \$8.19 per student per day, a 9% increase. However, the state minimum wage has increased 38% and the cost of living has increased 25% since the program began. Today, ASES programs are in the red tens of thousands of dollars this school year. Without additional funding, nearly ¼ of ASES programs are very likely to close in the next 2 years.
4. **ASES serves highest need students and families in our district –**
(NOTE: Look up data for your legislators: [Assembly Members](#), [Senators](#))

ASES programs are essential to California’s promise of educational equity and a safety net for low-income communities. In our district, there are [\(# of schools receiving ASES\)](#) bringing in [\(\\$ state funding\)](#). With this request, the average elementary school program would receive an additional \$21,600 this school year, so consider how much more money would be coming to the schools in our district.

Across the state ASES serves more than 400,000 students daily in 4,200 schools in our highest poverty communities (over 80% of students in ASES qualify for Free or Reduced Price Meals). These programs provide hundreds of additional learning hours and enrichment opportunities, keep kids safely off of the streets during the prime time for crime involving children, serve nutritional meals, and offer essential child care for working parents.

5. **The State can afford this modest increase** – Additional funding for after school programs comes from Proposition 98 – which is at an all-time high. This budget request represents 1/10th of 1% of the \$67.7 billion available for Proposition 98 K-12 funding. This request would give the average elementary school program an additional \$21,000.
6. **Californians support increase** – Hundreds of organizations officially support more funding for after school, including school districts, cities, law enforcement, and businesses. More than 10,000 students, families, and educators from across California wrote postcards to legislators in support of after school.
7. **ASK** – *(NOTE: Look up if they are a member of the Budget Conference Committee [here](#))*
 - a. *If they are a Conference Member: Can you be a champion for us and fight for the Assembly’s full proposal in the Budget Conference Committee?*
 - b. *If they are NOT a Conference Member: Can you reach out to Budget Conference Committee Members and Leadership to encourage them to fight for the Assembly’s full proposal in the Budget Conference Committee?*
8. **Thank you** – We are counting on your support.