



ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
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## Assembly Bill 2501: Universal Afterschool Programs

### SUMMARY

This bill would set guidelines and commit funding to collect data and engage departments, practitioners, and stakeholders for the purpose of addressing expanded learning implementation challenges and to develop a roadmap for achieving universal access to afterschool and summer learning programs that meet California’s quality standards.

### BACKGROUND AND PROBLEM

Research shows that quality afterschool and summer programs provide safe, supportive learning environments and enrichment opportunities that increase school attendance and academic outcomes. Prior to 2020, California served more than 900,000 students each year in more than 4,500 state and federally funded afterschool and summer learning programs through the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program. 84% of those students are from socio-economically disadvantaged families, 90% are students of color, and 33% are English Language Learners. Furthermore, 25% of students served experienced homelessness in California.

The 2021 Budget Act invested over \$1.7 billion to expand access to learning programs, and merged existing ASES and 21st CCLC funding streams with the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) to provide a single, comprehensive program. However, practitioners and stakeholders have been left out of state planning and implementation conversations.

The state of California is committed to growing this investment to \$5 billion by 2025-26 and has set the

goal of providing universal access to afterschool programs to all school-age children in elementary school. Unfortunately, there is no master plan, taskforce, or advisory committee to plan for this historic undertaking, address implementation and sustainability challenges, and ensure the state’s investment is effective in providing equitable access to high quality expanded learning opportunities.

Discussion and planning are needed urgently, as Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and their community-based partners are experiencing severe workforce challenges that limit their ability to serve current students and to dramatically expand access quickly.

### SOLUTION

AB 2501 would establish the California Universal Afterschool Program Workgroup to evaluate policy and regulatory impediments for the purpose of ensuring access to quality afterschool and summer programs by students and families. This workgroup will leverage the experience of practitioners and stakeholders, and data, to develop recommendations that address those impediments and a roadmap for providing universal access to afterschool programs to all school-age children.

### SUPPORT

The California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance (sponsor)  
 Partnership for Children and Youth  
 LA’s BEST Afterschool Enrichment Program

### STAFF CONTACT

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