



California AfterSchool Network

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## State of the State of Expanded Learning in California 2016–2017

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“High quality Expanded Learning programs are an integral partner with schools to increase student engagement, skill development, and college and career readiness. These programs also support working families by providing safe, healthy learning environments for their children in the critical hours after school and during the summer.”

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California boasts the largest and highest-rated Expanded Learning infrastructure in the nation. Expanded Learning programs in California support after school, summer, inter-session, and before school programs at over 4,500 Expanded Learning sites serving nearly 860,000 children and youth annually.

California’s Expanded Learning system is at risk due to stagnant funding along with increased operating costs due to a rise in cost of living and the increased state-mandated minimum wage.

Protecting this Expanded Learning system is essential to closing the opportunity and achievement gaps of children and youth in California. After school programs often result in positive academic and life outcomes, increased engagement, improved attendance and behavior, and increased health and wellness for high need students who participate in them.

Expanded Learning programs offer a wide range of supports and resources for the most underserved communities, which include year around learning opportunities; active and engaged STEM learning, nutrition education, increased physical activity, an opportunity to promote and develop social-emotional learning and an avenue to alleviate the teacher shortage California is facing.

Sustaining and growing California’s Expanded Learning infrastructure is critical to support the needs of children, youth and families. Even with historically high public support and a high return on investment, there is still a substantial unmet need for these learning opportunities in California.



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Expanded Learning programs for the purposes of this report are defined consistently with the California Department of Education’s Expanded Learning Division: “the term Expanded Learning refers to before and after school, summer, and intersession learning experiences that develop the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests of students. Expanded Learning opportunities should be hands-on, engaging, student-centered, results-driven, involve community partners, and complement learning activities in the regular school day/year.”<sup>1</sup>