



*Please distribute to all Board Members, Superintendent and relevant staff*

## **Proposition 49: New Funding for Before and Afterschool Programs**

**July 2006**

The 2006-07 fiscal year will mark the beginning of a major expansion in before and afterschool programs in California because of Proposition 49. In 2002, Proposition 49 was passed by the California electorate. The initiative requires the state to spend \$550 million on after school programs using the existing After School Education and Safety Program (ASES) model. The state will be required to meet this fund threshold once the state's non-Proposition 98 funding grows by \$1.5 billion above the 2001 budget amount. In the 2006-07 fiscal year the budget will reach the threshold and the state will fully fund ASES.

School districts that are interested in offering these programs need to plan now. Districts and other local government entities that are approved by the California Department of Education will receive ongoing three-year renewable grants. It is likely that the funds will not be sufficient to provide programs in every community in California and there is also a local match required, so school districts should begin planning efforts now if they want to avail themselves of these resources. The following advisory provides information on the state's ASES program and outlines practical considerations for school board members and district staff in an effort to assist in local planning efforts. Additional resources and contact information are also provided.

### **Background**

Pursuant to Proposition 49, the 2006-07 state budget devotes nearly \$428 million to the state's existing ASES program for a total of nearly \$550 million. ASES was created in 1998 as a state-funded, state-administered afterschool program with funding available through three-year renewable grants. The initiative slightly modified and greatly expanded the existing state program to allow more elementary and middle schools to receive ASES grants. Changes to the programmatic requirements now make ASES more flexible and districts may find that many limitations in the previous programmatic requirements have been addressed through new legislation.

SB 638 (Torlakson) is currently working its way through the Legislature and will likely make some changes to some of the funding mechanisms in ASES. The bill's passage is anticipated. The changes proposed in the legislation include increasing average daily attendance reimbursement rates to \$7.50 for afterschool and \$5.00 for before-school. Afterschool maximum grant caps per site will most likely be raised to \$112,500 for elementary and \$150,000 for middle school. Before-school maximum grant amounts are proposed to increase to \$37,500 for elementary and \$49,000 for middle school. Despite the increase in the reimbursement rates, the local match requirement is likely to remain at the current level of \$2.50 thus reducing the local match from 50 percent to 33 percent. The bill would also allow up to 25 percent of the local match to be in-kind facilities contributions. Previous ASES programs will likely receive funding at the new level and will be first in line for grant awards. The funding priority for new, first-time grants is proposed to be given to schools where a minimum of 50 percent of the pupils are eligible for the federal free and reduced lunch program. All changes proposed in the bill are tentative and pending upon the actions of the Legislature and the Governor.

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For 2006, the California Department of Education (CDE) expects grant applications to become available in August or September immediately after SB 638 (Torlakson) is signed by the Governor. Because SB 638 is an urgency bill, it will immediately go into affect upon the Governor's signature. To find out exactly when ASES grant applications will be available districts may sign up for the CDE funding mailing list at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/af/joinlist.asp>. By becoming a member of the mailing list the district will be notified by e-mail as funding opportunities arise. The Department anticipates a six-week turn around period to complete and submit ASES grant paperwork.

Please note: receiving grants through the ASES program does not imply the district is a Special Educational Service provider pursuant to NCLB.



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## **Programmatic Requirements\***

### *Hours*

- A program may include: before school, afterschool or both
- Before school programs must be open for 90 minutes per day
- Afterschool programs must be open until 6 p.m. for 15 hours per week. It is recommended, but not mandatory that programs stay open for 3 hours per day.
- Middle school programs may adopt a flexible schedule to accomplish program goals and to meet student needs and interests
- A program may choose to operate during school vacation periods, intersessions or summer breaks for a minimum of 3 hours per day
- Each program must also have an early release policy

### *Staff*

- All staff members who directly supervise pupils must meet the minimum qualifications of an instructional aide in that school district. School site principals approve site supervisors
- All program staff and volunteers are subject to health screening and fingerprint clearance requirements in current law and district policy for school personnel and volunteers in the school district
- The student to staff ratio must be no greater than 20-to-1

### *Content*

- Must include both academic achievement and youth development components
- The before and/or afterschool program may be held at schools or, at alternate sites accessible by safe transportation provided by the program
- Snacks made available through the program shall conform to the nutrition standards in Education Code 49430 as added by SB 12 (Escutia) in 2005

### *Evaluations*

- Programs are evaluated annually
- Evaluations are administered locally
- Data collected: academic performance, and attendance

### *Funding*

- Based on the ADA reimbursement rate
- If an afterschool program reaches 85 percent of its attendance goal, it will receive 100 percent of its grant. During the first year of grant funding, 15 percent of the grant may be used for start up costs. To cover administrative expenses, 15 percent of the grant may be used annually regardless of attendance.
- If several sites are covered under the same grant, an oversubscribed program can be reimbursed up to 125 percent by borrowing from undersubscribed programs using the same grant, as long as the undersubscribed program has at least 70 percent attendance.
- Evaluation results may be considered by the California Department of Education to determine eligibility for grant renewal.

\* The requirements listed include changes proposed by SB 638 (Torlakson)



## **Practical Considerations for School Leaders**

Although applications for new ASES funds are not yet available, school leaders should begin planning and preparing to apply for funds now. Steps districts can take to begin planning for an ASES program could include:

### Conducting a needs assessment

Districts may want to begin gathering information regarding current afterschool programs and their funding sources. The district could conduct a needs assessment of current programs and the goals of future programs. How will those goals and objectives be reached? Does the ASES program complement the vision of the district? How can the afterschool program support the regular school day? What are the needs of the children and youth participating in the program? Examples of needs that may be fulfilled through ASES include: helping improve student achievement; teaching drug, alcohol and gang prevention strategies; and providing educational enrichment through fine arts, recreation and physical fitness. The district may also wish to determine which schools meet the criteria to be eligible for funding. Once these evaluations have been considered the district may be better prepared to determine whether or not to apply for the available grant monies to fund before and/or afterschool programs.

### Identifying potential partners

In an effort to consider the most effective way to obtain funds, a district will need to identify potential grant partners. ASES funds are available to either: a school, school district, county office of education; or a city, county, or nonprofit organization partnering with a Local Education Agency.

### Securing local matching funds

Establishing a local match will prepare potential grantees for the planning requirement portion of the application. Districts may wish to scout resources and determine the details for the local match requirement. Either an in-kind or cash match may be used. Facilities or space usage may fulfill not more than 25 percent of the required local contribution.

### Identify facilities

The district and any potential partners will need to determine the location of the ASES program (classroom sites, multi-purpose, cafeteria, library, sports fields, etc.). Districts that are partnering with other agencies and organizations may want to consider developing a facilities agreement that addresses issues of costs, maintenance, damage, and safety.

### Develop communication strategies

Formal communications strategies between the school site and the leadership of the afterschool program should be outlined in terms of their roles and responsibilities. The ways in which the district will communicate about the ASES program to parents and community members should also be determined.

### Create data sharing guidelines

During the planning stages, before and afterschool programs will need to coordinate with principals from each school site regarding data sharing. The ASES program will need student and school data for planning, ongoing feedback and to meet evaluation requirements for the grant renewal process. Establishing data sharing guidelines between the school and the program early on may alleviate potential misunderstandings and ensure student information remains confidential.



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## Set policy

Districts may begin to develop policy governing the district's programs. CSBA's sample policy and regulation may serve as a starting point for districts to tailor to their unique needs. Policies and regulations might address program goals and components, priorities among schools and/or students, community partnerships, facilities whether or not to charge fees, hours of operation, transportation if necessary, staffing, admissions, communication strategies, data sharing, and program evaluation and accountability.

## Identify staffing requirements

Strategies should be discussed for recruiting and retaining quality staff either by the school district or partnering agency. The application documents outline the commitments of each partner and must be approved by the school district and principal of each participating school site. Each partner in the application agrees to share responsibility for the quality of the program.<sup>1</sup>

## **Start Planning Early**

To ensure quality before and afterschool programs are available in your school district, board members and district staff should consider planning now. Due to some of the specific programmatic requirements early planning is essential for the future success of the program. In the hectic months of August and September, the grant applications will become available and the turnaround time may be less than one month.

## **Contact information**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

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## **Resources**

California Department of Education After School Education and Safety Program:  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ba/as/>

California Department of Education "California's ASES Program Fully Funded in 2006-07":  
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ba/as/ases06fundingfaq.asp>

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<sup>1</sup> Education Code 8482.3

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For subscribers only, GAMUT Online: <http://www.gamutonline.net>

FowlerHoffman, LLC: [http://www.fowlerhoffman.info/case\\_studies.htm](http://www.fowlerhoffman.info/case_studies.htm)

National School Lunch Program – Afterschool Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture:  
<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Afterschool/default.htm>

SB 638 (Torlakson): [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill\\_number=sb\\_638&sess=CUR&house=B&author=torlakson](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_638&sess=CUR&house=B&author=torlakson)