



**BOOST Conference
Town Hall Session
April 27, 2012**



Agenda

- 1:15-1:25 – Introductions
- 1:25-1:35 – CA3 Description
- 1:35-2:00 – 2011 Policy Agenda Review
- 2:00-2:20 – Current Policy Items
- 2:20-2:45 – Advocacy Input/Opportunities



Purpose

- The California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance (CA3) was formed in 2009 for the purpose of strengthening and protecting California's publicly funded after-school programs. CA3 is committed to the dissemination of monthly newsletters and timely alerts regarding policy information that after-school providers need to know. To subscribe, visit our website at www.ca3advocacy.org.



Membership Criteria

- CA3 members represent agencies that are actively involved in advocacy and lobbying
- Ten agencies have formed a consortium to retain the lobbying firm of Rose & Kindel with pooled funds
- Other agencies contribute primarily in-kind resources by dedicating significant staff time to policy work



Membership



Sunset Neighborhood Beacon Center



The  children's
Initiative





Functions

- Arrange legislative site visits (20+ so far)
- Develop messaging materials (fact sheets)
- Coordinate testimony at legislative hearings
- Track and respond to attacks on Prop. 49
- Collaborate to develop and enact legislation
- Coordinate federal policy strategies
- Outreach to CDE on administrative issues
- Disseminate monthly policy newsletters
- Create letters of support/opposition templates.
- Convene monthly meetings of membership



2011 State Policy Agenda Review

- Grant Adjustment Policy
- Weekend Activities
- New Schools
- Supplemental Programs
- Audit Guide
- Administrative Allotment
- Use of Technical Assistance Funding
- Timing of Request for Applications



Grant Adjustment Policy

- Issue
 - Executing adjustments one year in arrears disincentivizes improvement. Voluntary adjustments are a redundant administrative exercise, and should not be incentivized.
- Status
 - CDE now bases adjustments on calendar year attendance totals. This issue requires continued focus for more viable solutions.



Weekend Activities

- Issue
 - Ed Code is moot on whether ASES funds can be used to deliver activities on weekends. The CDE previously interpreted that this was not permissible.
- Status
 - The CDE has reversed its position and stated that ASES funding can be used to deliver activities on weekends, with certain caveats.



New Schools

- Issue
 - New schools that did not yet have student data entered into DataQuest were not considered eligible for ASES funding.
- Status
 - The CDE has developed an alternative method for estimating Free and Reduced Price Meals eligibility based on the levels of schools that will feed into the new school.



Supplemental Programs

- Issue
 - Parents and students need longer programs on summer days, but ASES only paid \$7.50/per student/per day for three hours. Additional hours were provided at grantee's cost.
- Status
 - SB 429 (DeSaulnier) became law on January 1, 2012, permitting programs to receive \$15 per student/per day for delivering six hours of service.



Audit Guide

- Issue
 - The 2010/11 Audit Guide misinterpreted legislative intent language in Ed Code related to attendance patterns as a mandate.
- Status
 - The CDE successfully persuaded the Education Audit Appeals Panel to drop the Audit Guide provisions related to individual student dosage.



Administrative Allotments

- Issue
 - Agencies that sub-contract with ASES grantees are often passed through little or no part of the 15% administrative allotment.
- Status
 - CA3 will pursue language to be included in the CDE's afterschool RFQs that will recommend grantees pass through a reasonable portion of their administrative allotment to sub-contractors.



Use of Technical Assistance Funding

- Issue
 - The discretionary technical assistance funds controlled by the CDE have not always been granted in consultation with the state advisory committee or other key stakeholders.
- Status
 - New After School Division Director Michael Funk is enlisting the input of field representatives in TA grant making decisions henceforward.



Timing of RFAs

- Issue
 - In years past, RFAs had been issued in mid-December with January due dates, making it difficult to prepare applications during holiday season.
- Status
 - The CDE issued its 21st CCLC application in October with a December due date. Technical difficulties required a one month extension.



Current Policy Issues

- SB 1385 (Hancock)
- After School Division Strategic Plan
- Federal Expanded Learning Policy
- Summer Learning



SB 1385

- Creates a pilot program for after-school workers that mirrors the Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program
- Would re-direct \$150,000 in CDE discretionary technical assistance funds to launch project
- Assists employees in achieving a teaching credential, including a grant of up to \$3,500 per year for books, fees and tuition



After School Division Strategic Plan

- CDE has secured the services of a private consultant firm to facilitate the development of a strategic plan for the new division
- Internal and external surveys and interviews have been conducted to assess the current landscape
- Design team comprised of CDE staff, regional leads, and field representatives (including CA3 members) has been convened to advise and inform the process



Federal Expanded Learning Policy

- House version of ESEA reauthorization proposes to absorb 21st CCLC funds into flexible state block grants
- Senate version protects discrete funding stream for 21st CCLC, but provides “extended school day” option
 - Extended model must include community partners
 - State or federal DOE may not set preference for one model over another (local prioritization)



Summer Learning

- Extensive research documents “summer slide” which disproportionately affects children in low income communities, contributing to persistent achievement gap
- CA3 will pursue policies that facilitate the use of existing ASES and 21st CCLC funding to deliver summer learning programs, matched by corporate and foundation grants



Get Involved

- Participate in the California Afterschool Challenge event, May 21/22 - www.calsac.org
- Raise your policy issue, offer suggestions and subscribe to CA3 communications – info@ca3advocacy.org
- Be an informed advocate and educate your local elected officials about the value of after-school programs – www.leginfo.ca.gov



Open Forum

- Please share your suggestions or concerns related to state and/or federal after-school policy
- School closures – large school adjustments
- Analyze potential impacts/opportunities of tax initiatives
- Summer evaluation tools/outcome measurements