



The Honorable Tom Torlakson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
California Department of Education
1400 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

March 19, 2017

Dear Superintendent Torlakson,

We are writing on behalf of the [California Afterschool Advocacy Alliance](#) (see listed organizations below), which is comprised of after school and summer program providers and advocacy organizations from across the state of California. Collectively our programs serve hundreds of thousands of low-income students every school day and throughout the summer, and our communities rely on the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) program.

Last week, President Trump announced he is proposing to eliminate the 21st CCLC program from the federal budget. If enacted, over 600 schools would lose their programs, and tens of thousands of students from Kindergarten through 12th grade would lose their safe place to get extra help in school, they would lose educational enrichment opportunities, they would lose support from caring adult mentors, and they would lose access to nutritious meals. Their working parents would lose a critical, affordable resource to ensure their children and safe and learning in the hours after school and in the summer.

In California, even with our state investment in the After School Education and Safety (ASES) program, the resources allocated through the 21st Century Community Centers program are critical. The demand for 21st Century funding has been consistently very high – typically there are applications for more than three times more funds than the state has available to distribute. Many programs across the state have waiting lists. In addition, 21st CCLC is the only dedicated resource for high school after school programs in California.

Decades of research and experience prove that expanded learning programs offered after school and in the summer are essential to keeping young people safe, engaged, connected to school and community, and thriving in school and beyond. Children who attend regularly have better school attendance, grades, graduation rates, and academic and social skills that give them a better chance in college and beyond. We are relying on our allies with a voice in Washington, D.C. to protect the interests of California's children and families. You have been a strong and consistent champion of expanded learning for many years, and we hope you will join us in fighting to maintain the current investment in 21st CCLC.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Gunderson at Jessica@partnerforchildren.org.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Peck
President & CEO
Partnership for Children & Youth

Kris Lev-Twombly
Executive Director
California State Alliance of YMCAs

Mike Snell
CEO
California Teaching Fellows Foundation

Ruth Obel-Jorgensen
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Stu Semigran
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Eric Gurna
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LA's BEST After School Enrichment Program

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Ted Lempert
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