

# AB 1567 (Campos)

## Afterschool Access for Success Act of 2016

### Summary:

California is home to more poor children than any other state. The most effective ways to help children escape poverty is to provide them with their basic needs and to improve their access to education. California's Afterschool programs do this. However, some of the poorest and most vulnerable children have lacked access to the programs because they are unable to secure a spot on the waiting list or to pay the minimal fee required by some programs.

AB 1567 would make these services available to the neediest of children by giving them priority access to state funded afterschool programs and waiving their program fees.

In addition, AB 1567 would ensure that afterschool programs utilize all federally funded programs and resources available to prevent hunger and support healthy outcomes.

### Background:

According to Pew Center for the States, children born poor are 70% more likely to end up living in poverty as an adult.

There is strong evidence that access to afterschool and summer programs increases the likelihood of success in elementary and high school, and reduces involvement in the criminal justice system. Research also shows that students, especially girls, benefit from improved health and academic outcomes when they participate in afterschool programs.

California's afterschool programs like the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) and After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs offer quality learning and development opportunities that can make a difference for all the children they serve, especially for low-income children.

However, children who are homeless and/or living in deep poverty are less likely to be able to

participate than other children due to their inability to afford even the smallest of fees required by some programs for registration. As a result, children who could benefit most from having a safe place to learn and exercise, with afterschool meals, are least likely to be admitted into the program.

We know the programs were not designed to intentionally leave the most vulnerable children behind, but unless accommodations are made for families that are homeless or who are participating in CalWORKs, they will continue to do so.

Not only will very vulnerable youth benefit from being enrolled in these afterschool programs, but so will their parents and the state's bottom line. The Bureau of Labor Statistics and the UC Berkeley Labor Center have found that parents are more likely to secure employment and to stay employed when they have a safe place for their children to be while they are at work. This means that California's investments in low-income parents through the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program are enhanced when children are enrolled in afterschool programs.

### This Bill:

AB 1576 would waive fees and give priority access to state funded afterschool programs for children who are homeless, as defined by the federal McKinney-Vento Act, or members of a CalWORKs assistance unit.

Because ASES programs require child daily attendance through 6:00 pm, AB 1567 will also ensure that afterschool programs know to apply for federally funded supper programs. This way they can spend more of their funds on their educational activities while at the same time providing adequate meals to the children they serve.

In doing this, AB 1567 will ensure that vulnerable youth have access to these state funded, powerful learning opportunities while at the same time being appropriately fed.

**Support:**

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- Western Center on Law and Poverty (Sponsor)
- Children’s Defense Fund-California (Sponsor)

**For More Information Contact:**

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