Expanded Learning Partnerships
A Foundation for Reimaging and Rebuilding

February 9, 2021
9:00 – 10:00 am

Moderated by Heather Hough, Executive Director

@edpolicyinca
Panelists

Femi Vance  
Researcher  
American Institutes for Research

Stacy Galdamez  
General Manager  
Think Together

Noreen Iwai-Ito  
Senior Director of Support Services  
Baldwin Park Unified School District

Jennifer Peck  
President and CEO  
Partnership for Children and Youth
Today’s Agenda

- **Framing**: Expanded learning in the current policy context
- **Summary of new research**: Expanded learning partnerships and integrated whole child supports
- **Insights from practice**: Baldwin Park Unified School District and Think Together
- **Policy implications**: How can policy support better expanded learning in California?
- **Q&A and discussion**
Logistical notes

• Please type your questions & comments into the Q&A box
  • You can vote on others’ entries, which will determine which questions get answered first

• Slides and links to resources can be found on the PACE event page: https://www.edpolicyinca.org/events/expanded-learning-partnerships

• The video recording from this webinar will be posted online early next week
Femi Vance, Ph.D.
Researchers
American Institutes for Research
A FOUNDATION FOR REIMAGING AND REBUILDING

RESOURCES FOR THE FIELD

Femi Vance, PhD
American Institutes for Research
AIR’s mission is to generate and use rigorous evidence that contributes to a better, more equitable world.
Resources for the Field

1. Expanded Learning Partnerships: A Foundation for Rebuilding to Support the Whole Child

2. Planning Integrated Whole Child Supports

3. Learning Hubs: In-Person Learning for the Whole Child

Informed by interviews with California’s expanded learning system leaders, program staff, technical assistance providers, and policy influencers
California’s Expanded Learning Programs

- Before- and afterschool, summer, and inter-session programs that offer youth safe and supportive learning environments, academic enrichment, caring adults, peer learning, social and emotional supports, and fun!

980,000 children

California’s publicly funded afterschool programs serve some of the state’s most vulnerable children.

- 84% of children are socio-economically disadvantaged
- 90% children of color
- 33% English language learners
- 25% of California’s homelessness students

Source: Williams (2020)

4500 programs
Expanded Learning During COVID-19

- Helping families meet their basic needs
- Supporting access to educational resources
- Staying connected to youth and families
- Providing social and emotional support
- Offering care and programming to the children of essential workers

Sources: Afterschool Alliance (2020); Williams (2020)
Principles for Expanded Learning Partnerships to Rebuild

- Develop and maintain systems to sustain and grow partnerships.
- Collaboratively plan and implement services.
- Provide research-based integrated supports.
- Prioritize equity.
- Invest in adult capacity.

What Is a Learning Hub?

Learning hubs typically offer small groups of students in-person academic support and other whole child supports like enrichment, social and emotional learning, exercise, and healthy meals and snacks.

Afterschool Intermediaries

Community Organizations

District—Expanded Learning Partnerships

Sources: Afterschool Alliance (2021); Tasayco (2020); Vance, Wolfforth, and Gunderson (2021)
Designing and Launching Learning Hubs

1. **Prioritize** buy-in and alignment across partners.
2. **Focus** on student groups that are most negatively affected by COVID-19.
3. **Invest** in staff to ensure safety and effectiveness.
4. **Emphasize** integration and coordination in planning implementation.

Source: Vance, Wolforth, and Gunderson (2021)
CLOSING THOUGHTS
Build on Joint Assets

• A commitment to youth thriving

• Understanding of student and family needs

• Current partnership structures

• Policy flexibility

• New funding opportunities
References


References


Noreen Iwai-Ito
Senior Director of Support Services
Baldwin Park Unified School District

Stacy Galdamez
General Manager
Think Together
Phase 1: Launched August 2020
- Distance Learning @ 17 sites (Elementary & Middle Schools)
- Coordinated meal distribution once/week & family wellness checks
- Leveraging ASES flexibility

Phase 2: Launched September 2020
- In-Person Learning Hubs @ 17 sites (Elementary & Middle Schools)
- 34 cohorts; 2 per site
- Leveraging ASES flexibility

Phase 3: Launched December 2020
- +6 cohorts at 3 existing sites w/longest waitlist
- Leveraging CARES Act Funding

Phase 4: Scheduled to Launch 02/2021
- +3 sites (High School); 7 cohorts
- Leveraging CARES Act Funding
Partnership Planning

- Relationships Matter
- Shared Vision & Goals
- Building a Cohesive Team
- Advanced Forecasting & Planning
- Building Buy-In
- Structures for Success

Key Learnings

- Consistent Adherence to Protocols Keeps Everyone SAFE!
- Repeatedly Take On Frontline Worker Lens
- Supporting Staff Confidence to Work In-Person
- Schedule Coordination with Classroom Teachers
- Educating Parents and Families

“Think Together staff are my co-teachers and I sincerely appreciate their support.”
Ms. Macias, Walnut Elementary Teacher
“I like being at Think Together because it makes Distance Learning easier. I am more focused and motivated to get my grades up. I have a lot of fun being in Think Together and the Program Leaders are amazing.”

7th grader, Sierra Vista JH
Looking Ahead

Phase 4: Scheduled to Launch 02/2021
- +3 sites (High School); 7 cohorts
- Leveraging CARES Act Funding

AB104: Student Learning & Social Emotional Recovery
- Summer Program Planning
- Other Learning Recovery Support Opportunities

“This is a critical service that our families need to really close the gaps of inequity in terms of social and fiscal resources that our families may not have.”

Froilan N. Mendoza, Ed.D.
Baldwin Park USD Superintendent
Jennifer Peck
President and CEO
Partnership for Children and Youth
Discussion