

Expanded Learning Partnerships

A Foundation for Reimagining 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

EXPANDED LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS | CALIFORNIA

A FOUNDATION FOR REIMAGING AND REBUILDING

RESOURCES FOR THE FIELD

Femi Vance, PhD

MAKING
RESEARCH
RELEVANT



Femi Vance, PhD
Researcher

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

4500 programs

Source: Williams (2020)

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.

Sources: Aspen Institute National Commission on Social, Emotional, & Academic Development (2018); Vance, Wolforth, and Kimmer (2021)

What Is a Learning Hub?

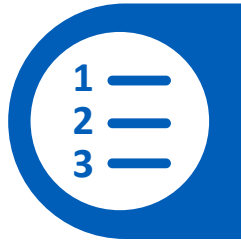
Learning hubs typically offer small groups of students in-person academic support and other whole child supports like enrichment, social and emotional learning, exercise, and healthy meals and snacks.

**Afterschool Intermediaries
Community Organizations
District—Expanded Learning Partnerships**

Sources: Afterschool Alliance (2021); Tasayco (2020); Vance, Wolforth, and Gunderson (2021)



Designing and Launching Learning Hubs



Prioritize buy-in and alignment across partners.



Focus on student groups that are most negatively affected by COVID-19.



Invest in staff to ensure safety and effectiveness.



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

Afterschool Alliance. (2020). *Back to school in the time of COVID-19*.

<http://afterschoolalliance.org/documents/Afterschool-COVID-19-Wave-3-Brief.pdf>

Afterschool Alliance. (2021). Community learning hubs [website].

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California Department of Education. (2020). Expanded learning [website]. <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ex/>

Little, P., & Pittman, K. J. (2018). *Building partnerships in support of where, when, & how learning happens*. Aspen Institute National Commission on Social, Emotional, & Academic Development.

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Tasayco, G. (2020). Community learning hubs: Municipal leadership to support education requires collective action. National League of Cities. <https://www.nlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL20E26EL20Community20Learning20Hub20Brief.pdf>

References

- Vance, F., Wolforth, S., & Gunderson, J. (2021). *Learning hubs: In-person learning for the whole child*. Policy Analysis for California Education. https://edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/pb_vance_2_feb21.pdf
- Vance, F., Wolforth, S., & Kimmer, H. (2021). *Expanded learning partnerships: A foundation for rebuilding to support the whole child*. Policy Analysis for California Education. <https://edpolicyinca.org/publications/expanded-learning-partnerships>
- Williams, H. (2020). *A hub of community resilience: California's expanded learning programs respond to crisis*. California Afterschool Network. https://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/can-sots-brief-2019-2020-accessible_0.pdf?1611809083

Noreen Iwai-Ito

Senior Director of Support Services
Baldwin Park Unified School District

Stacy Galdamez

General Manager
Think Together



think
TOGETHER

Baldwin Park Unified + Think Together Partnering to Change the Odds for Kids



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



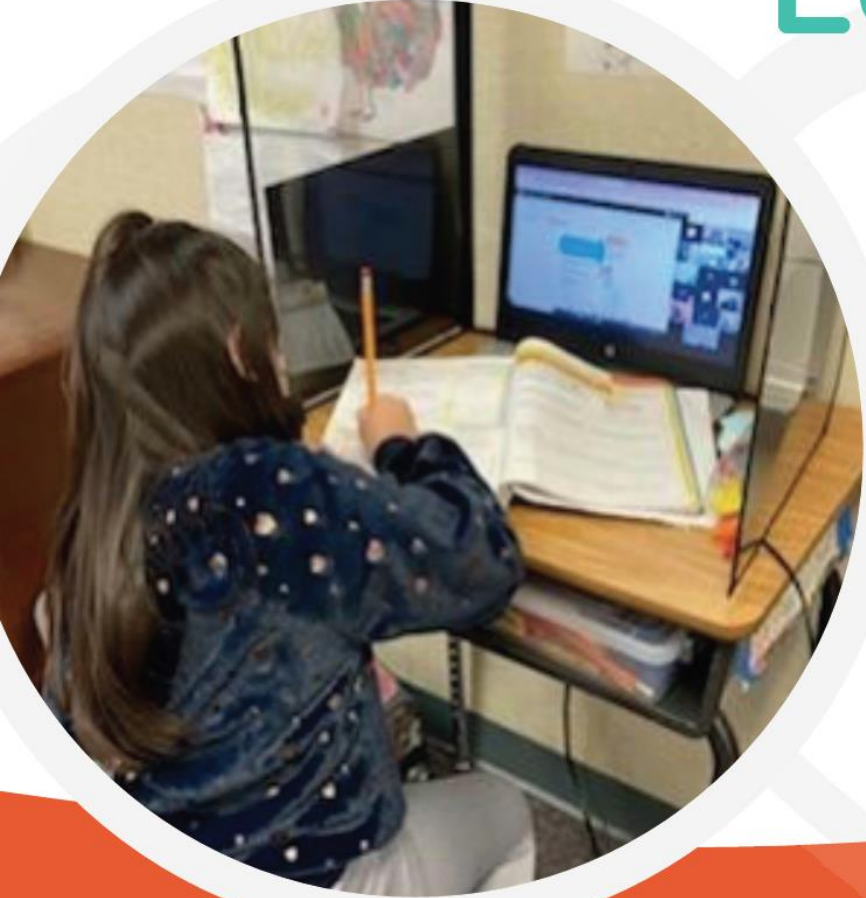
“I like being at Think Together because it makes Distance Learning easier. I am more focused and motivated to get my grades up. I have a lot of fun being in Think Together and the Program Leaders are amazing.”

7th grader, Sierra Vista JH



think
TOGETHER

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