



CAN

California AfterSchool Network

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Strategic Plan 2013 - 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Letter to the Community

This is an exciting time to be connected to the **California AfterSchool Network (CAN)**. With the coming of the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and the unprecedented strategic planning work being done by the California Department of Education, the expanded learning field is poised to play an integral role in the way California's children and youth are educated and supported. Likewise, CAN is positioned to become an even stronger and vital partner to this work's success. Opportunities abound and I'm excited and honored to be the Director at this critical time.



Frank Pisi

The 2013-2016 Strategic Plan is focused on three essential areas: Program Quality, Leadership Development, and K-16 Partnerships and Collaboration. Research shows that the success of expanded learning programs lies intrinsically in their quality and their ability to provide meaningful, tangible, hands-on experiences for children and youth. In this strategic plan, we are tasked to work with our regional, statewide, and national partners to define the elements of quality and look for and highlight examples of success. As a broker of expertise and resources, we are turning an eye toward fostering the next generation of leaders. CAN is striving to strengthen the grassroots that are so important to the entire system's success by leveraging strategies and resources to support leadership development at all levels- from children and youth to program directors to Leadership Team members. CAN is also focused on highlighting models of successful partnerships between expanded learning programs and a variety of stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive program that supports student success. Be it partnerships with business and industry, local government, traditional school day programs, or colleges and universities, all stakeholders have a role in creating a seamless system of support for California's children and youth, and the Common Core and NGSS provide us the perfect frame with which to have this conversation. In 2013 and beyond the CAN is not only committed to proclaim this message, but also to show tangible examples of how it can be done.

We believe that a strong, knowledgeable field is necessary to influence and inform policy and practice at the state and national levels. To that end, CAN is engaging the field to determine needs and thoughts on all issues related to the expanded learning environment. Our 2013-2016 strategic plan is forward thinking, innovative, and focused on explicit ways that CAN will support the **whole** field.

As you review the California AfterSchool Network's Strategic Plan, I ask you to envision yourself as a partner in our ambitious work. The expanded learning field in California is as diverse and talented as the children and youth we serve in our programs. The strength and success of our Network lies in the passion and expertise of our members. When fully realized, this Strategic Plan will result in a more connected expanded learning field than we have ever had in our history. As I've stated before, I am excited to direct the California AfterSchool Network at this time, and look forward to your support, engagement, and collaboration with our efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Pisi". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Frank Pisi, Director
California AfterSchool Network,
School of Education
University of California, Davis



California AfterSchool Network—

Purpose Statement

The California AfterSchool Network's (CAN) purpose is to **promote quality** in expanded learning programs. Utilizing its unique and effective leadership and committee structure, CAN is a **convener of the field**, able to facilitate a two-way flow of information between the field and State and National policymakers where the needs and thoughts of the expanded learning field at all levels can **influence and inform policy and policy is translated into practice**. Ultimately CAN believes that these efforts will bring **greater coherence and professionalism** to the field.

With stakes high and time precious, **CAN promotes the belief that expanded learning programs can be a robust place of learning and discovery** that supports high achievement for all students. To that end, **CAN leverages existing high-quality resources** to the field and creates high-quality resources for the field when gaps are discovered. As a **catalyst for quality**, CAN disseminates promising and emerging practices around aspects of program design, implementation, and assessment. Connecting multiple levels of program practitioners with the resources, strategies, and individuals they need to ensure the most relevant and effective program possible, CAN is committed to **fostering and supporting the next generation of leaders** in the expanded learning field.

California AfterSchool Network— Core Values

We Believe That:

- **High-quality expanded learning programs** have strong, positive effects on the academic, social and emotional development of children and youth.
- **Continuous quality improvement** is acquired through intentional and ongoing support to the expanded learning field.
- We are unwaveringly **child and youth-centered** in our decision-making. We align our words and our actions to the core belief that all children and youth can achieve at a high level when provided the opportunity.
- **Children and youth success** is dependent on positive growth, cognitively, socially, emotionally and physically.
- Expanded learning program staff are the heart and soul of a high-quality program and should be supported with **meaningful professional development**.
- Effective programs **create leadership opportunities** for children and youth at all ages and stages of development.
- Leadership development **must be culturally responsive and appropriate** for all stakeholders.
- **It takes an entire community** to align its resources in support of the positive development of our children and youth.
- Expanded learning is a **vital partner** in a systemic effort to support children and youth.

» See back for Strategic Priorities

California AfterSchool Network— Strategic Priorities

<p>1. PRIORITY: Program Quality</p>	<p>GOAL: California’s AfterSchool Network (CAN) will be a trusted resource for expanded learning programs, particularly around issues of quality.</p>
<p>2. PRIORITY: Leadership Development</p>	<p>GOAL: CAN will identify and develop resources that support emerging leaders throughout the expanded learning system.</p>
<p>3. PRIORITY: K-16 Partnership and Collaboration</p>	<p>GOAL: CAN will be an integral partner in the success of the K-16 system, creating and facilitating partnerships and collaboration among stakeholders that support positive child and youth outcomes.</p>
<p>4. PRIORITY: Influence and Inform</p>	<p>GOAL: CAN will influence and inform the decisions of stakeholders by serving as a bridge between the expanded learning field and policy makers to improve the quality and impact of the academic, social, and emotional developmental experiences of children and youth.</p>
<p>5. PRIORITY: Funding and Sustainability</p>	<p>GOAL: CAN will research, compete for, and secure funding for its projects and operations from a diverse array of public and private organizations. CAN will engage in projects and pursue funding that directly supports its mission, vision, and purpose.</p>

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CAN would like to thank **Babs Kavanaugh** of BK Consult for her expert facilitation of this strategic planning process. Her ability to ask probing questions and allow for discussion, all while keeping the process on track enabled the Ad Hoc Committee to create a truly transformative and forward thinking strategic plan. Special thanks to the Ad Hoc Committee, responsible for completing the strategic plan. Without their hard work and dedication to the process, this strategic plan would not have been possible:

- Diego Arancibia**, Specialist, ASAPconnect
- Sandra Birmingham**, STEM Pipeline and Outreach Coordinator, California State University, Channel Islands
- Angelina Cacioppo**, Program Coordinator, California AfterSchool Network
- Frank Escobar**, Manager, After School Programs, Visalia Unified School District
- Bruno Marchesi**, Program Director, California AfterSchool Network
- Renee Newton**, Director of the School of Education’s Center for Community School Partnerships, UC Davis
- Frank Pisi**, Director, California AfterSchool Network
- Esther Rosario**, Director of Regional Operations, THINK Together



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