

# California's Golden Opportunity

The effects of COVID-19, one-time and ongoing investments in education, and committed funding through ELO-P has given California's education system the opportunity to whole-heartedly invest in the whole child.

## We know how to create the conditions necessary for children and youth to thrive:

Community is everything: Experiences, environments, and cultures are the defining influences on cognitive, social, and emotional development.



## We know this has long been California's vision:

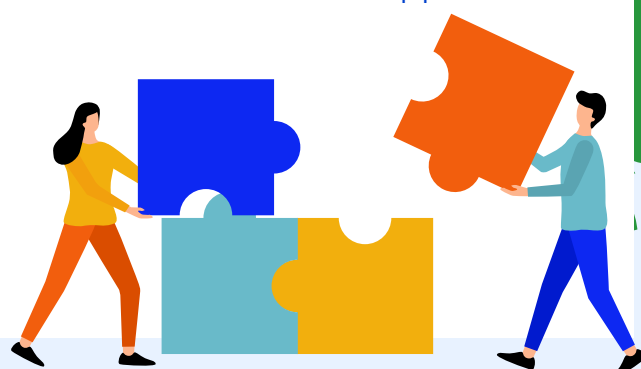
Whole Child Development is the goal of education in California. Organizations\* are envisioning a transformation of schools into centers of wellness. And Community Schools are supported by California's leaders.



## We've known WHAT to do all along, and now we finally have the opportunity:

## We know multi-factor collaboration is key to creating these conditions:

Supportive familial, caregiver(s), and adult relationships are integral in fostering positive outcomes for youth. These relationships in partnership with school supports create access to social-emotional learning (SEL) and mental health/trauma supports.



## We're learning that equity is a verb, and it's how we get this work done responsibly:

Intentional "robust equity\*\*" strategies aim to counter inequality, institutionalized privilege and prejudice, and systemic deficits to promote the thriving of youth who experience these adversities.



## We know that CA's Expanded Learning (EXL) programs are perfectly positioned for partnership across sectors to advance this vision:

CA already had a system of 4500 EXL programs serving over 80% of CA's low-income elementary and middle school populations and nearly 350 high schools.

There are Collaborative Partnerships already in play: the Whole Child Health and Wellness Collaborative has worked through 2020 to address racial and social injustice, and climate crises to create "shared equity strategies" that any community can consider as they develop partnerships with EXL programs to support whole children, families, and communities.

## WHAT NOW?

No more going back to "business as usual," let's all make a change that favors the practices that truly support the success of kids and families. We can't do it alone. Get in touch with us at [afterschoolnetwork.org](https://afterschoolnetwork.org).



\*California's Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) outlines this vision in their publication "Every Young Heart and Mind: Schools as Centers of Wellness".

\*\*The Readiness Project's publication "Thriving, Robust Equity, and Transformative Learning & Development" introduces this term.

Learn More:

