

A Vision for Expanded Learning in California

In late 2011, the California Department of Education created the After School Division (ASD), now the Expanded Learning Division (EXLD), recognizing that Expanded Learning opportunities play an essential and unique role in supporting the education of the whole child, ensuring that students have access to the support they need and deserve, preparing them for a thriving life.

In 2012, the ASD launched a highly participatory strategic planning process culminating in [A Vision for Expanded Learning in California \(2014-2016\)](#). This process, referred to as [Strategic Plan 1.0](#), was built on a critical design principle: integrated participation and leadership among ASD staff and field representatives. The process established the foundation for collaborative visioning and implementation work between the EXLD and Expanded Learning field practitioners. Learn more about the [Strategic Plan 1.0](#) and [2.0](#) planning processes and implementation work

Today, California dedicates over **\$5 billion annually** to Expanded Learning, which, together with federal funding, helps ensure nearly every school district across the state offers these opportunities to their students. The EXLD and CAN are co-hosting a strategic design process that will culminate in an [Ecosystem Plan to Leverage California's Expanded Learning Infrastructure](#).

Strategic Plan 1.0 (2012-2017)

The Expanded Learning Division (EXLD) worked in collaboration with over 200 field stakeholders to develop and implement the EXLD Strategic Plan 1.0.

The California Department of Education (CDE) EXLD, formerly the After School Division, was formed in late 2011, implementing a recommendation from the former Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson's Transition Advisory Team's final report, A Blueprint for Great Schools. The EXLD immediately launched a strategic planning process which brought together Expanded Learning practitioners, kindergarten through twelfth grade education representatives, expanded learning technical assistance providers, intermediary and non-profit organizations, and CDE EXLD staff to craft a plan that is both rooted in field experience and knowledge and vetted by the EXLD for feasibility and alignment with state-level priorities. This core approach, emphasizing strong field engagement, resulted in an innovative planning process that provided a forum for deep discussion and understanding of the EXLD's challenges, opportunities, and roles as well as the best ways for EXLD and the field to support each other.

In January 2014, the release of the strategic plan, [A Vision for Expanded Learning in California—Strategic Plan: 2014–16](#), formally kicked off plan implementation. Since that time, collaborative groups made up of EXLD staff and field members were formed to tackle the varying objectives. This work has focused on four strategic initiative areas: System of Support, Grant Administration and Policy, Communications, and Expanded Learning/Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade Integration.

Learn more about the Strategic Plan 1.0 Process and Implementation Work:

- [CA Expanded Learning Strategic Planning Website](#)
- [CDE EXLD Webpage](#)



Strategic Plan 2.0 (2018–2023)

At the end of 2017, the EXLD conducted a thorough review of SP1.0 and implementation efforts to date, identifying work completed, in progress, or not yet addressed and opportunities to apply a CQI lens to some of the work that has already been completed.

An aggressive work plan for 2018 was developed to address outstanding work. In addition, recognizing that much of the work set out in the original strategic plan had already been completed or is nearing completion, the EXLD launched a new strategic planning process. On September 27, 2018, the EXLD hosted a large convening of over 120 CDE staff and field stakeholders to identify goals and objectives for four outlined strategic initiative areas (Quality Programs, Policy and Grant Administration, Collaborative Partnerships, and Workforce). The convening culminated in the release of the [Strategic Plan 2.0 \(SP2.0\)](#). This plan builds upon the previous four years of work and set the direction for the next five.

Learn more about the Strategic Plan 2.0 Process and Implementation Work:

- [CA Expanded Learning Strategic Planning Website](#)
- [CDE EXLD Webpage](#)
- [A Vision for Expanded Learning in California—Strategic Plan: 2019–23](#)

Strategic Design Process: An Ecosystem Plan to Leverage California’s Expanded Learning Infrastructure (2025 and Beyond)

Building on the foundation of the collaborative work to design and implement A Vision for Expanded Learning in California, Strategic Plans 1.0 and 2.0, California’s Expanded Learning Leadership has begun an expansive strategic design process to build an **Ecosystem Plan to Leverage California’s Expanded Learning Infrastructure**. The California AfterSchool Network is excited to partner with the California Department of Education Expanded Learning Division to co-host a Strategic Design Process that elevates Expanded Learning as an essential partner in California’s Education, Health and Human Services, and Workforce Development ecosystems.

More than just a strategic plan, this Ecosystem Plan is a collective care response—a coordinated effort to elevate Expanded Learning as a wellspring of community, healing and opportunity. In a time of uncertainty, we are building a future of abundance—one where young people are not just supported but uplifted by a community that deeply cares for the next generation.

[Access the website to learn more](#)

