

# INSPIRE



## SAN DIEGO EXPANDED LEARNING CONSORTIUM

Annual Report 2018-2019

# SAN DIEGO EXPANDED

In 1999, the Children’s Initiative and the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) collaborated in forming a county wide, after school grant application to the California Department of Education. Interested and eligible school districts were brought together to form a regional San Diego After School Consortium. Intentional and cooperative meetings were held with significant community stakeholders, including the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, San Diego County School Boards Association, Ninth District PTA, ACSA Region 18 Superintendents Council, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, San Diego County Probation Department and the City of San Diego to ensure success.

Through these efforts, San Diego County formed the first regional After School Consortium in California, now called the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium. The SDCOE serves as both the grantee and fiscal agent with the Children’s Initiative as the Consortium lead. The Consortium partners developed a collaborative and effective approach of doing business that encouraged the partners to share resources and best practices, eliminate duplication of efforts, and work collectively to maximize resources for expanded learning programs in San Diego County.

During school year 2018-19, 27 local school districts and 21 charter schools were part of the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium. More than 31,000 students in grades K-8 attended 337 elementary and middle school expanded learning programs daily.

The San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium is a distinct model for the development, management and sustainability of expanded learning programs and for building cross-system partnerships. The size and scope of the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium has significant impact on policy and program development at the local, state and national levels. In partnership, the Children’s Initiative and the SDCOE continue to support high-quality expanded learning programs.



## Our Mission

1. Provide youth with safe and enriching learning environments before and after school
2. Provide outcome-driven academic assistance
3. Promote youth development and enrichment programming that fosters student resiliency and improves neighborhood safety

## Funding History

Year	ASES	21 <sup>st</sup> CCLC	Totals
97-10	\$363,286,832	\$28,518,642	\$391,805,474
10-11	\$50,438,906	-	\$50,438,906
11-12	\$49,563,851	-	\$49,563,851
12-13	\$48,267,629	-	\$48,267,629
13-14	\$48,594,036	-	\$48,594,036
14-15	\$27,956,301	\$330,000	\$28,286,301
15-16	\$27,915,599	\$330,000	\$28,245,599
16-17	\$27,791,877.27	\$330,000	\$28,245,599
17-18	\$30,469,360.38	\$1,377,027	\$31,846,387.38
18-19	\$30,809,135.46	\$2,227,268.26	\$33,035,403.72
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$705,093,527</b>	<b>\$33,112,937.26</b>	<b>\$738,206,464</b>

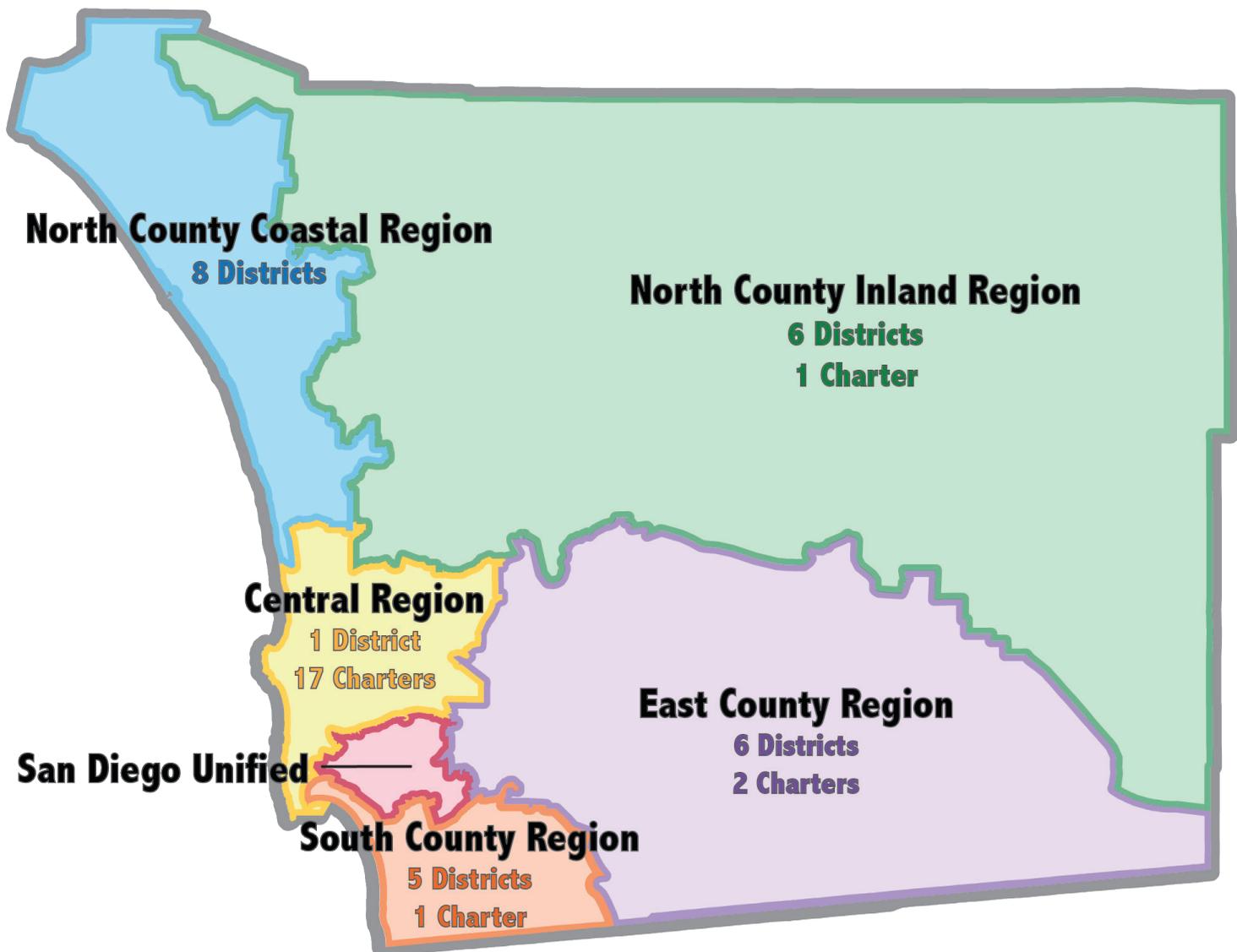
With quality programs and dedicated advocacy, the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium has successfully secured federal and state funding for local districts for more than 21 years.

**ASES:** After School Education and Safety funded by the California Department of Education

**21st CCLC:** 21st Century Community Learning Centers funded by U.S. Department of Education

# LEARNING CONSORTIUM

## San Diego County Regional Areas



## Partner Districts & Charter Schools

- |                            |                             |                                       |                                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bonsall Union              | National                    | Warner Unified                        | King-Chavez Arts Academy        |
| Borrego Springs Unified    | Oceanside Unified           | America's Finest Charter School       | King-Chavez Athletics Academy   |
| Cajon Valley Union         | Poway Unified               | Darnall Charter                       | King-Chavez Preparatory Academy |
| Carlsbad Unified           | Ramona Unified              | EJE Elementary Charter                | King-Chavez Primary Academy     |
| Chula Vista Elementary     | San Diego Unified           | EJE Middle Charter                    | Magnolia Science Academy        |
| Encinitas Union            | San Marcos Unified          | Epiphany Prep Charter School          | McGill School of Success        |
| Escondido Union            | Santee Elementary           | Gompers Preparatory Academy           | Museum School                   |
| Fallbrook Union Elementary | San Ysidro                  | Harriet Tubman Village Charter School | SDCOE - Momentum Learning       |
| Julian Union Elementary    | South Bay Union             | Hawking S.T.E.A.M. Charter School 2   | The O'Farrell Charter           |
| Lakeside Union             | Sweetwater Union High       | High Tech Middle                      |                                 |
| La Mesa-Spring Valley      | Vallecitos Union            | Holly Drive Leadership Academy        |                                 |
| Lemon Grove                | Valley Center-Pauma Unified | Keiller Leadership Academy            |                                 |
| Mountain Empire Unified    | Vista Unified               | King-Chavez Academy of Excellence     |                                 |

# The Children's Initiative

*The Children's Initiative is a San Diego based nonprofit child advocacy agency. The Children's Initiative is dedicated to assisting children and families thrive by providing education, advocacy, cross system collaboration and training to schools, community organizations, government agencies, elected officials, businesses and parents.*

**D**uring the 2018-19 school year, in support of continuous quality improvement, the Children's Initiative conducted site visits and provided technical assistance, professional development and resources to 337 elementary and middle school expanded learning programs within 27 school districts and 21 charter schools. The technical assistance, guidance and support provided to expanded learning staff helps improve program quality and advances program practices to increase student achievement.

Expanded learning programs offer learning opportunities not always available during the traditional school day such as coding, robotics, photography and cooking. Academic support is an important component of expanded learning programs, as well as the integration of enrichment and health to provide a comprehensive program that meets the needs and interests of the students served. Consortium expanded learning programs successfully reinforce learning by making constructive use of the extended time to offer new and different ways of learning.

Throughout the year, the Children's Initiative continued to build collaborative partnerships with local businesses and corporations, cultural and sporting organizations, and other key stakeholders around San Diego County to secure much needed resources for expanded learning programs. The Children's Initiative procured and distributed materials and resources valued at more than \$174,480 for Consortium expanded learning programs including arts and gardening supplies, books for expanded learning libraries, tickets for various arts and sporting events and academic curriculum.

The sustainability and success of expanded learning programs relies on strong partnerships. The Children's Initiative works with representatives from the San Diego County School Boards Association, ACSA Region 18 Superintendents Council, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, San Diego Police Chiefs' Association, San Diego County Probation, and the Offices of Supervisors Greg Cox and Nathan Fletcher as well as other state officials. These partnerships provide a firm foundation for identifying and accessing resources, connecting with community assets and in the development of policies and legislation which prioritizes expanded learning. The cooperative efforts of the Children's Initiative and all of our partners result in a shared responsibility for the advancement and growth of expanded learning programs.



**Site Visits** - Conducted **71** site visits to ASES & 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) expanded learning programs.



**Professional Development** - A total of **265** expanded learning practitioners participated in **10** professional development opportunities. Participants represented **20** school districts and charter schools.



**In-kind** - Procured **\$174,480** of In-kind donations, for Consortium expanded learning programs.



**TMSF XXXIII** - **560** Consortium expanded learning practitioners attended TMSF XXXIII, the annual professional development conference.



*The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) supports more than 500,000 students, including the 3,150 children we educate each year through our Juvenile Court and Community Schools. SDCOE provides a variety of services for the 42 school districts, 124 charter schools and five community college districts in the county.*

**S**DCOE serves as the direct-funded grantee for 195 San Diego County elementary and middle schools funded by the state's ASES Program. In an effort to support the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium, the SDCOE Administrative Support Center (ASC) supports districts and charter schools with grant and fiscal management, attendance reporting, and program evaluation. School sites receive additional support from the Resources and Technical Assistance Center (RTAC), which promotes the System of Support for Expanded Learning. Per CDE, the focus of technical assistance was shifted to concentrate on critical programs, which was delivered by RTAC. In an effort to meet all ASES program audit requirements and adhere to quality standards set forth by the After School Division of the California Department of Education, the ASC and RTAC provided the following support to consortium districts:

- **Alignment 101 Training:** Provided strategies on how best to align the after school program with core day instruction.
- **ASES 101 Training:** Provided site-level information on grant and attendance requirements, as well as best practices for programs.
- **City Span Attendance and Fiscal Management System Training:** Trained staff on use of web-based youthservices .net platform for participant data attendance and grant goal progress tracking.
- **Federal Program Monitoring (FMP):** Trained and prepared district staff for successful FPM review.
- **Focus on Literacy in After School:** Provided support to program sites by providing supplemental curriculum in core academic content areas through educational, nonfiction books.
- **ASES and STEAM Meet-ups:** Coordinated a collaborative network to connect program leads, site coordinators and partner agency staff to discuss innovative tools and practices designed to inspire quality programs.
- **STEM Power Conference:** Experiential Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning was offered to 250 participants to increase competence of staff to facilitate STEM in expanded learning programs.

In an effort to leverage resources and work in collaboration across the County, the ASC and RTAC will join forces in 2019-20 to deliver services as one expanded learning team.



**Professional Development** - A total of **2,061** expanded learning practitioners participated in **35** professional development opportunities. Participants represented **30** school districts and charter schools.



**Site Visits** - Conducted **133** site visits to ASES programs to provide support in the areas of Federal Program Monitoring, grant requirements, audit compliance and program quality standards.

# QUALITY & IMPACT SURVEY RESULTS

For the past three years, the San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium has collaborated with ERC, an external evaluator, to engage in a county-wide process to continually improve program quality. The program improvement process includes annual stakeholder feedback surveys aligned to the California Department of Education's Point-of-Service Quality Standards. On-site leaders and staff develop an action plan using a quality, data-driven improvement process for their program based on the Quality Standards.

In September of 2014, the California Department of Education (CDE) released the "Quality Standards for Expanded Learning." These standards were intended to provide clear expectations for what a quality expanded learning program looks like and a guide for continuous program improvement.

## The Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Cycle



Currently, CDE requires every state funded after school program site to engage in a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) cycle. Program providers are required to do the following on an ongoing basis:

1. **ASSESS:** Assess program quality by collecting data.
2. **PLAN:** Create an action plan for program improvement.
3. **IMPROVE:** Make modifications to improve program quality.

## Survey Respondents

### Students



### Parents



### Regular School Day Teachers



### Front-Line Staff



### On-Site Program Leaders



### School Principals



## ABOUT US:

Established in 1999, Educational Resource Consultants (ERC) is a consulting firm in program development, evaluation, and research for school districts, county offices of education, community colleges and universities. Evaluation and reporting experience include programs funded through federal, state and private sources. ERC evaluates after school programs at more than 500 school sites in California.



# Quality Standards for Expanded Learning

1

## SAFE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

96%

of parents said their child feels emotionally and physically safe in the program.

88%

of students agreed that their school staff make them feel welcome in the program.

## ACTIVE & ENGAGED LEARNING

81%

of students said there are fun and interesting activities in the program.

96%

of principals reported that the program provides hands-on learning activities.

2

## 3 SKILL BUILDING

95%

of teachers said the program fosters team building, collaboration and communication skills among students.

80%

of parents said their child's academic performance has improved as a result of attending the program.

## YOUTH VOICE AND LEADERSHIP

74%

of all students reported that they are learning how to become a good leader in their program.

97%

of teachers said the program provides activities that meet the needs and interests of students.

4

## 5 HEALTHY CHOICES AND BEHAVIORS

95%

of parents agreed that the programs and snacks offered promote healthy behaviors.

91%

of on-site leaders reported that nutrition is incorporated into curricula to give students the opportunity to learn about balanced nutrition.

## DIVERSITY, ACCESS AND EQUITY

95%

of front-line program staff said recruitment efforts are made to include all students at the school.

99%

of principals said the after school program offers something for every student regardless of income level, ethnicity, religion, English learner status, special needs or sexual orientation.

6

# SKILL BUILDING

## High Tech Middle School Makers Kitchen: What Is On The Menu Today?

The Makers Kitchen at High Tech Middle School (HTMS) is the place to be Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons. This hands-on enrichment club which started as a 1-day activity by an expanded learning staff has become a full culinary experience for students. Through this program, students learn the proper use of kitchen tools, the importance of cleanliness and how to properly handle, prepare and present their delectable creations. Cavatapi noodles with pesto sauce and homemade garlic, cheesy bread; carne asada and brown beans with nachos and guacamole; fresh acai

also provides the opportunity for students to share any family and/or cultural recipes so other students can explore different flavors and develop their pallets. In a short amount of time, Makers Kitchen has garnered community recognition for their handiwork. Specialty Produce, a wholesale supplier in San Diego, provides complimentary fresh produce to Makers Kitchen which they use in their recipes. The students have prepared the food for several HTMS sport banquets which they host at the end of each season, creating meals ranging from cold salads to hot dishes.



Making Tortillas at High Tech Middle School



Cooking students at High Tech Middle School

bowls and fish tacos with purple chips and guacamole are just a few examples of the recipes students have mastered. Makers Kitchen is one of HTMS's renowned expanded learning clubs where all students are welcomed regardless of their cooking skills and experience.

One goal of Makers Kitchen is to encourage students to practice and perfect the skills they have gained during program time at home by recreating the various recipes shared during the lesson. Makers Kitchen



Students who have participated in Makers Kitchen have been able to develop and demonstrate valuable skills such as collaboration, problem solving, communication, creativity and leadership. As students' confidence and competence progress in the kitchen, they are given challenges to test their skills such as cooking outdoors, proper handling of knives and creating specific dishes. They have also learned healthy eating habits, improved their concentration, coordination and confidence. Makers Kitchen offers HTMS students a wide variety of opportunities to learn and grow!

"It's a place where kids work together"

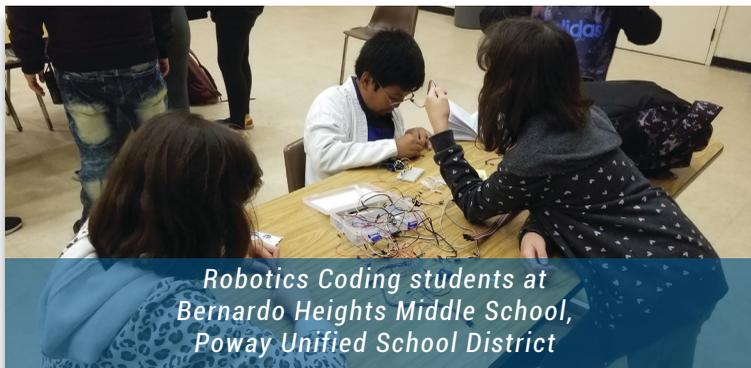
-Julia, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

"I think it's fun and exciting to learn to cook"

-Ryker, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Bernardo Heights Middle School, Poway Unified School District: ASES Inventors Club Minnow Tank

The future of invention is underway in the ASES program at Bernardo Heights Middle School (BHMS). Every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, BHMS students meet for the ASES Inventor's Club and a world of opportunity and creation is opened up for inquisitive and motivated young minds. Created 5 years ago by former ASES student, the ASES Inventor's Club teaches students about circuitry and coding for Arduino processors,



*Robotics Coding students at Bernardo Heights Middle School, Poway Unified School District*

programming and engineering Raspberry Pi and 3D design and modeling. During the first half of the 2018-19 school year, comprehensive instruction and hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) learning gave BHMS students the opportunity to expand their familiarity and mastery of modern technologies, as well as a broader understanding of the future of technology and how they can be a part of its development.

With this knowledge, the BHMS ASES Inventor's Club prepared for the Inventor's Club Minnow Tank, an innovative event that allowed students to present and demonstrate

their inventions. The ASES Inventor's Club Minnow Tank is a variation of the popular ABC show "Shark Tank." During the second half of the 2018-19 school year, students focused on creating, designing and implementing their invention. With guidance from the Inventor's Club instructors, club president, advisors; students worked to create an invention to present to a panel of science and academic professionals. Meticulous planning, problem solving and experimentation provided the students with a glimpse into the real world of STEM-based invention. Their efforts were rewarded with a Minnow Tank presentation.

In front of their school and Inventor's Club peers, students showcased their inventions, with PowerPoint and slideshow presentations, prototypes and models. The students presented their idea and intention, invention (including design and cost), and the potential benefits. Some inventions were designed to assist with nursing care and hospital administration; some inventions were designed to assist firefighters; and other inventions included a flameless marshmallow roaster.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the Minnow Tank panelists asked presenters questions and provided constructive feedback. The panelists' feedback encouraged many students to continue the development of their invention to implementation and production. Throughout their experience, students learned the importance of collaboration and critical thinking, how to accept constructive criticism and were able to develop their STEM, public speaking and presentation skills. The future is indeed bright for BHMS ASES Inventors' Club students!



*Student Minnow Tank presenters and judges at Bernardo Heights Middle School, Poway Unified School District*

# SKILL BUILDING

## ASES End of Year Celebration

On May 21, 2019, expanded learning staff, students, parents, district administrators, principals, community partners and representatives from the California Department of Education celebrated San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium programs. The ASES Celebration showcased the enthusiasm and commitment students and expanded learning staff have for their programs and the incredible enrichment opportunities which are offered daily for students to learn and master a variety of new skills. In addition to student performances, expanded learning programs were invited to highlight their special activities through display boards of student projects, art work and video.

A diverse selection of impressive, live student performances were enjoyed by all. The event's audio and visual support and playlist were provided by Chula Vista Middle School's Club Teen Connection (Club TC) DJ Group. Expanded learning performers who shared their talent at the ASES Celebration included:



- Club TC Cheer, Harriet Tubman Village Charter School
- Step Dance Group, San Altos Elementary School, Lemon Grove School District
- Hakuna Matata Performance, America's Finest Charter School
- Orchestra Performance, America's Finest Charter School
- Dance Group, Rice Elementary School, Chula Vista Elementary School District
- Cheernastics, Epiphany Prep Charter School
- Ballroom Dance, South Bay Union School District
- Ballet Folklorico, Epiphany Prep Charter School
- Song Solo, Lincoln Middle School, Oceanside Unified School District
- JMP Dance Team, Chula Vista Middle School, Sweetwater Union High School District
- Polynesian Dance, Mission Elementary School, Oceanside Unified School District

Coordinated and hosted by the Children's Initiative and the San Diego County Office of Education Expanded Learning Administrative Support Center, the ASES Celebration recognized quality Consortium expanded learning programs in San Diego County. The energy and inclusiveness created by quality expanded learning programs allow students to succeed through new experiences and opportunities.



# ACTIVE & ENGAGED LEARNING

## Santee School District: Expanding Summer Opportunities for Students

The expanded learning staff at PRIDE Academy in the Santee School District offered an educational summer camp program for K-8th grade students which was made possible by utilizing After School Education & Safety (ASES) supplemental funding. This summer's theme was "Summers Past," which focused week to week on activities from different eras in history. Staff were intentional in creating fun, stimulating programs which met student interests, promoted student learning and fostered positive outcomes of participating students every day. Exploring Science In Colonial America, Pioneer Days - log cabins made of pretzel sticks, Jackson Pollock paintings from the

friends and families. Middle school students participated in 3 weekly, off-site enrichment activities with Tuesday trips that provided career exploration opportunities for students to experience and learn first-hand about certain careers. Students visited the SDG&E Energy Innovation Center, Padre Dam Advanced Water Treatment Facility, Santee Fire Station Taylor Guitars and completed a career scavenger hunt at Grossmont Center. Students were also invited by the U.S. Navy to be a part of STEM day on the USS America where they participated in a variety of STEM activities on the ship.

At the end of the summer camp, many students submitted articles, poems and quotes for the program newsletter sharing their experiences. Students enjoyed the diverse summer learning opportunities provided throughout their time in camp.

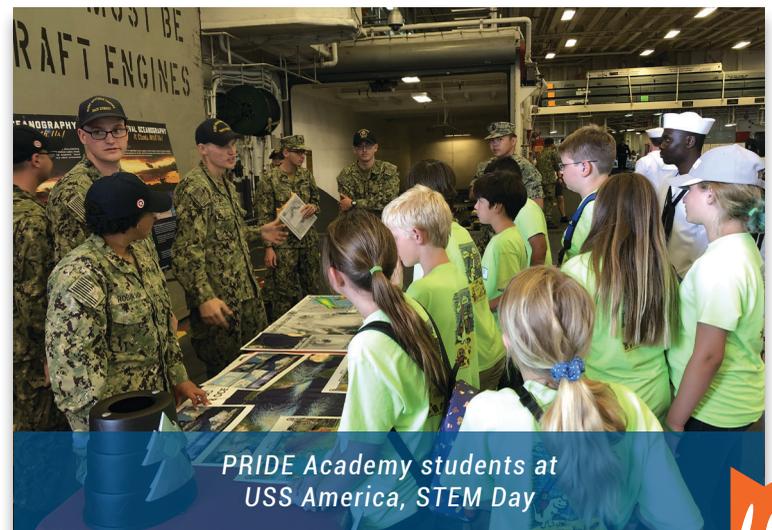
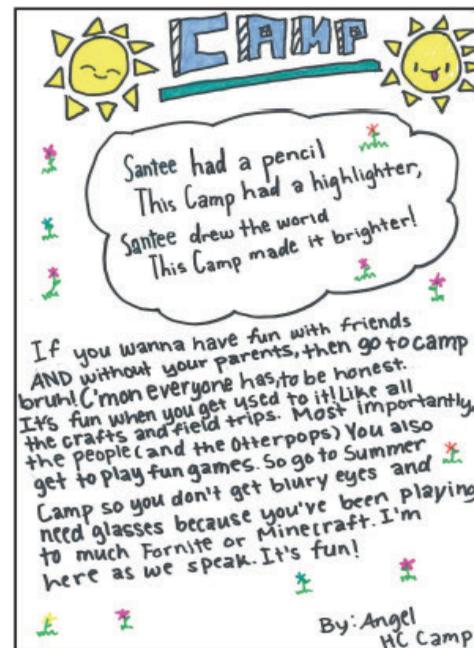


PRIDE Academy students at Taylor Guitars

50s-60s, 70s-80s music videos and Turn of the 21st Century Beanie Babies were some of the activities planned. During the 9 week summer camp, staff kept students actively engaged and excited about their learning. Staff placed students into 4 different groups to appropriately support their developmental, social-emotional and physical needs: kindergarten, 1st – 3rd, 4th – 5th and middle school.

Kinder Camp was specifically designed for new incoming kindergarten students to help prepare them for the 2019-20 school year. Kindergarteners participated in a wide variety of fun, cooperative activities including combining literature and makerspaces, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) lessons, circle time, art, recreational games, off-site enrichment activities and interactive assemblies.

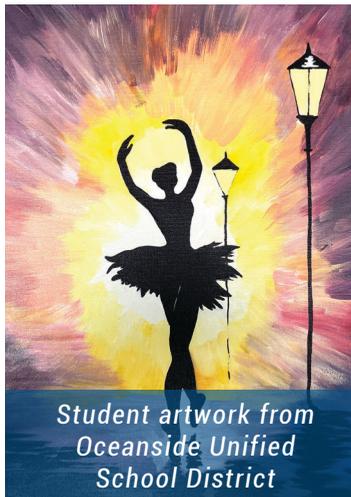
The 1st – 3rd grade students participated in Makerspace, STEM lessons, crafts, educational and recreational games and creativity centers. Students also participated in weekly off-site enrichment activities including the Fleet Science Center, bowling and a visit to Casa Del Prado Theater, Balboa Park to see the "Pippi Longstocking" performance. The 4th – 5th grade students had similar, yet more age appropriate experiences as the 1st – 3rd grade group, but were also involved in Coding Club, Soccer Club and Theater Club. The Theater Club performed "13 Colonies," a musical play about early American history for the entire program,



PRIDE Academy students at USS America, STEM Day

# ACTIVE & ENGAGED LEARNING

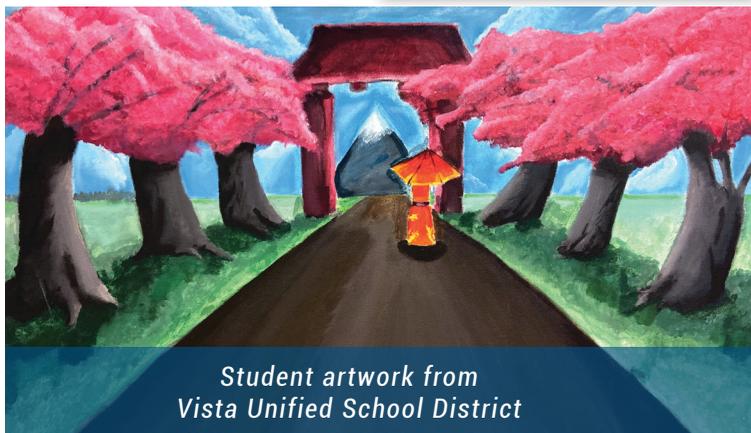
## Art Link: Providing Art Opportunities for Students



Student artwork from  
Oceanside Unified  
School District



Art student at  
Twin Peaks Middle School,  
Poway Unified School District



Student artwork from  
Vista Unified School District

As arts education disappears from the traditional school day, Art Link brings art experiences to expanded learning students. This is achieved by identifying local artists in the community or art instructors within expanded learning programs who are willing to educate students in various forms of art. In collaboration with several donors, the Children's Initiative makes quality art materials and supplies available to expanded learning programs for students to broaden their artistic abilities.

Art Link was developed by the Children's Initiative with the belief that art education stimulates students' creative expression, builds self-esteem and improves academic achievement. Through Art Link, students are able to develop and demonstrate their artistic skills and creativity by utilizing various creative mediums (e.g. pastel and charcoal drawing, tile mosaics, acrylic painting and pottery).

The various art activities are hands-on, project-based and result in a culminating piece of art. Quality art enrichment programming helps develop 21st century skills such as decision-making, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and innovation. In 2018-19, 15 consortium programs participated in Art Link within 6 school districts and 7 charter schools.

## International Children's Art Exchange

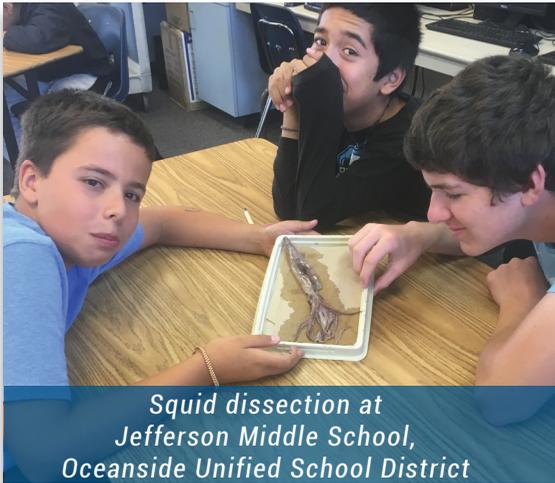


Andriana Kollakova, Age 12, Slovakia

In collaboration with the International Children's Art Exchange Program, the Children's Initiative invites expanded learning students to participate in the exchange of artwork with students from around the world. This unique program offers expanded learning students the opportunity to share and receive children's art from various countries around the world. This year the Children's Initiative received and distributed student artwork from Portugal, Peru, Canada, Slovakia, Brazil, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland and Greece. More than 336 pieces of Consortium student art was sent to Canada to be included in the 2019 International Children's Art Exchange.

Aside from the creation and enjoyment of the beautiful art, participating students become aware of what is important to other students and what they are interested in; they learn what life is like in another country and they are motivated to learn about world geography. Expanded learning students from 22 Consortium programs within 7 school districts and 3 charter schools created art to share with the International Children's Art Exchange.

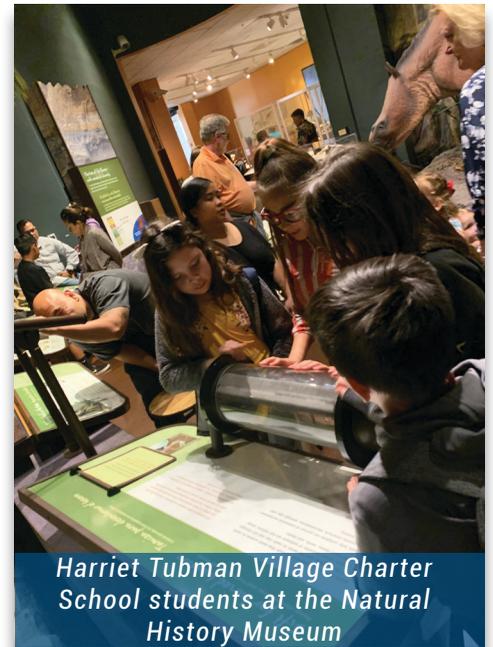
## Science Link: Supporting Science, Technology, Engineering, Math



Developed by the Children's Initiative, Science Link is an academic enrichment program designed to engage expanded learning students in higher learning and to broaden their academic experience of science and math in an interactive way. Science Link connects expanded learning students to stimulating science experiences through hands-on experiments, outreach workshops, guest speakers and STEM resources. During the 2018-19 school year, 10 Consortium programs within 3 school districts and 3 charter schools participated in Science Link. Students explored science topics such as Marine Biology, Forensics, Aerodynamics, Engineering, Life Science and Anatomy. Science Link promotes the engagement of expanded learning students in active methods of discovery, creativity, experimentation, collaboration and

a better understanding of the sciences outside of a traditional textbook and classroom setting.

Staff receive training and materials to prepare students to succeed in developing their STEM skills and abilities. The STEM activities include real-life implications which connect what students are learning to their everyday lives. Exposing students to STEM activities in expanded learning programs provides students more time to develop an interest in science, which is key to giving them the opportunity to explore whether or not they want to have a future career in STEM.



## XTRA Weekly: Literacy Enrichment in Expanded Learning

Introducing students to informative news articles that shape our world is the foundation of XTRA Weekly. This unique, web-based educational curriculum utilizes high interest national news articles to encourage students to learn about current events and how they connect to their lives and communities. Each news article is taken from the Tribune News Service, which obtains stories from hundreds of contributors including The San Diego Union Tribune, Los Angeles Times and The Seattle Times. The Children's Initiative secures XTRA Weekly subscriptions for Consortium expanded learning programs to incorporate into their academic enrichment planning by using reading, writing and critical thinking. Weekly, expanded learning staff has access to a new, five element lesson plan which includes a newspaper article, guide for the instructor, student questions, an answer key and extension activities through the XTRA Weekly website.



The flexibility and format of the XTRA Weekly program makes it well suited for expanded learning programs and ideal for supplementing literacy activities for all students. XTRA Weekly lessons can be used with either a small or large group of students and modifications are offered to staff working with students with special needs and English Language Learners. During the 2018-19 school year, the Children's Initiative provided 206 XTRA Weekly subscriptions to 103 Consortium programs within 14 school districts and 8 charter schools.

# QUALITY STAFF

## Touching Minds Shaping Futures Conference - TMSF XXXIII

**T**ouching Minds, Shaping Futures (TMSF) XXXIII, a free, professional development conference for San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium staff, was held on Saturday, October 27, 2018. TMSF is designed to improve the quality of expanded learning programs



Recreational games at TMSF XXXIII

**“Excellent sessions. I really did learn many new things I can use as soon as next week”**

*-TMSF XXXIII Attendee*

throughout San Diego County by providing meaningful and helpful workshops for staff to increase their professional knowledge, gain new skills, network with fellow colleagues and learn best practices. More than 550 attendees from 17 Consortium districts and 7 charter schools participated in various workshops and activities during the conference. Expanded learning staff received the necessary tools and resources to ensure their programs are nurturing, learning environments that offer opportunities for students to grow socially, emotionally and academically.



Smart Behavior Guidance workshop

**“Great event! Thank you! This was really helpful and really opened my eyes”**

*-TMSF XXXIII Attendee*

**“Thank you, great information. Can’t wait to put it on practice”**

*-TMSF XXXIII Attendee*

Elementary and middle school expanded learning staff had a wide selection of interactive, hands-on trainings to attend which aligned with the Quality Standards for Expanded Learning. TMSF workshop areas of focus included: program development, academic support, enrichment, youth development/leadership, health/physical activity and behavior management. Presenters shared easy-to-implement ideas, strategies and practices which staff can readily incorporate into their expanded learning programs to meet the needs and interests of their students.



Creating and Sustaining Your Expanded Learning Garden workshop

**“I was kind of burned out after a rough week at site. The Keep Calm and Include On workshop really was helpful and I feel excited about next week”**

*-TMSF XXXIII Attendee*

TMSF continues to be a valued and well-regarded professional development opportunity for new and seasoned Consortium expanded learning staff. Staff from various districts, charter schools and community based organizations were excited about the opportunity to increase their professional learning.



Arts and the Cosmic Connection workshop

# COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

## Community Ticket Donations for Students & Families For Expanded Learning

Due to the generosity of new and established community partnerships, the Children's Initiative received more than 3,000 donated tickets that provided a variety of theatrical, cultural and sporting events to 98 Consortium programs within 19 school districts and 8 charter schools in San Diego County.



Students from Jefferson Middle School, "The Nutcracker" performance at the San Diego Civic Theater



Students from Martin Luther King Middle School, "The Newsies" performance at the JCompany Theatre

During the 2018-19 school year expanded learning students and their families attended the Lambs Players Theatre's "Festival of Christmas," San Diego Civic Youth Ballet's "Fairy Tales in the Park" and "Cinderella," California Ballet's "Nutcracker" and "Cinderella," San Diego Junior Theatre's "Into The Woods," "Peter and the Star Catcher" and "Suessical the Musical", J Company's "Hunchback of Notre Dame," "The Newsies," and "Madagascar," Christian Youth Theatre's "Tuck Everlasting," Circus Vargas, Museum of Making Music, San Diego Padres baseball games, San

Diego State football games, USD basketball games, San Diego Fleet football games, San Diego Sockers games and the San Diego Seals Lacrosse games.

Responses from attendees have been remarkable. Students and parents shared sentiments of appreciation with cards and photos to commemorate their experiences. Many expressed that the events were inspiring and made students feel that they could pursue a career in theatre, college or professional sports. These valued community partnerships make it possible for expanded learning students to receive a better understanding and connection to their community and a greater appreciation of the arts, culture and sports.



Students from Jefferson Middle School, "Christmas Carol" performance at the Cygnet Theatre

# COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

## Scaling Reading Success for Beginning Readers

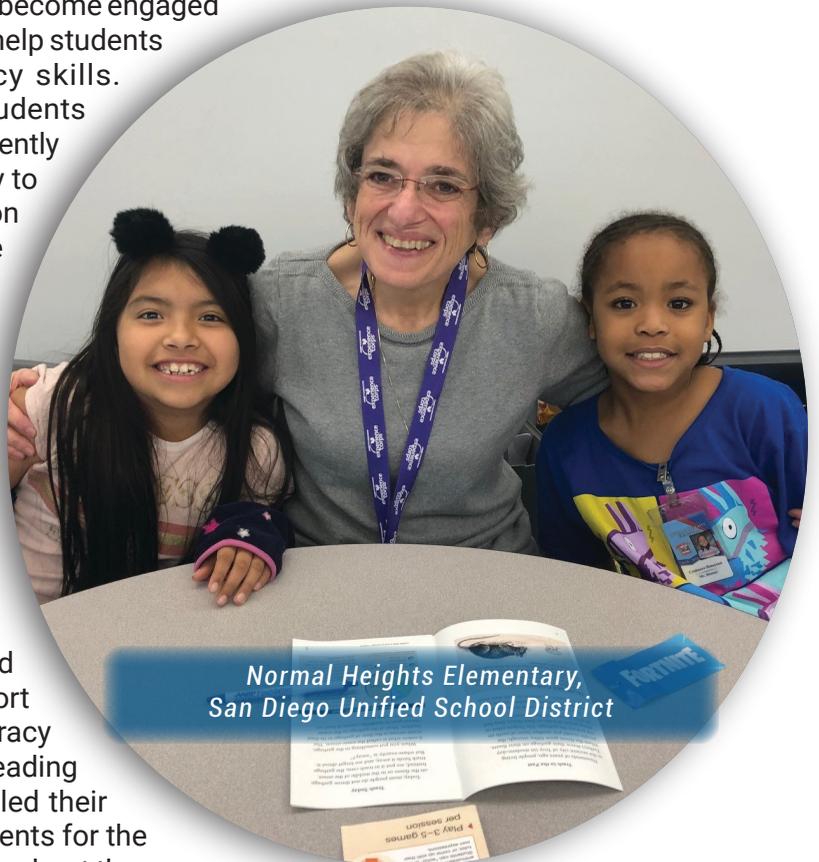


More than 5 years ago, the Children's Initiative developed a unique tutoring concept for early elementary students reading below proficiency levels. The idea was to recruit older adults to tutor students in reading during expanded learning programs as a way to create inter-generational connections, help seniors become engaged in their communities and help students to improve their literacy skills. Research shows that students who are not reading proficiently

by the time they enter 4th grade are four times more likely to not graduate from high school. Targeted literacy intervention maximized during after school time translates to more successful students and higher graduation rates.

The Children's Initiative partnered with AARP Foundation Experience Corps, a national program that trains older adults to volunteer in schools. In partnership with AARP Experience Corps, the Scaling Reading Success program, made its debut in San Diego County's expanded learning programs during the 2016-17 school year. In 2018-19, the program was implemented in 10 Consortium programs within 2 school districts of the county.

During the 2018-19 school year, a total of 55 experienced adult tutors volunteered more than 3,844 hours to support more than 200 K-3 students improve their reading and literacy skills. By the end of the year, 65% of the students were reading at or above reading level, and on average, students doubled their reading fluency rate. These are outstanding accomplishments for the students and for their tutors! Students received books throughout the year to build their home libraries and accomplishments were celebrated at the end-of-year parties, which brought together students, families, tutors and school staff.



Normal Heights Elementary,  
San Diego Unified School District



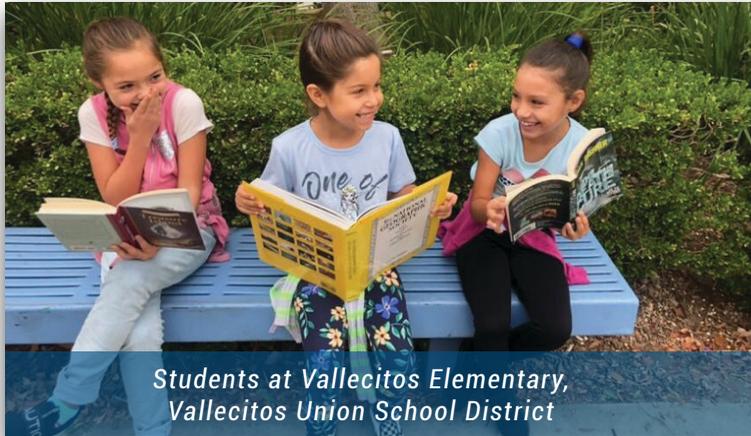
Monterrey Heights Elementary,  
Lemon Grove School District



Birney Elementary,  
San Diego Unified School District

## Barnes & Noble: New Books in the Hands of Expanded Learning Students

# BARNES & NOBLE



*Students at Vallecitos Elementary,  
Vallecitos Union School District*

During the 2018-19 school year, the Children's Initiative distributed more than 1,550 new books to 36 Consortium programs within 11 school districts and 9 charter schools. Students get excited as they select a new book to read and become immersed in the words and pictures before them. The academic benefits are limitless when students are given access to various literary genres, authors and topics across all grade levels. Reading in expanded learning can lead reluctant readers to improve their reading skills and foster a lifelong joy of reading.



*Student at San Luis Rey Elementary School,  
Oceanside Unified School District*

A well-supplied expanded learning library can provide students with opportunities to increase their reading skills, bolster their imaginations and further their exploration of new interests. In expanded learning programs, creating and sustaining libraries can be challenging for staff due to limited funding and resources. Thanks to the established partnership between the Children's Initiative and Barnes & Noble, expanded learning programs are able to receive brand new books for their students to read.

## Union Tribune Shoe Fund: New Shoes for Expanded Learning Students

Since 2007, the Children's Initiative and the Union-Tribune Shoe Fund have partnered to provide new shoes for Consortium expanded learning students. This fund was established in 1930 during the depression by Forest Warren, a reporter for the San Diego Union-Tribune and now operates solely on donations from people in San Diego County.

In 2018-19, 420 gift cards (valued at \$25 and \$30 each) were distributed to more than 400 students from 9 Consortium Districts and 3 Charter schools to buy new shoes. Thanks to the donations from our generous partner The San Diego Union-Tribune, Payless Shoe Store gift cards were donated to economically challenged students in expanded learning programs. With these gift cards, students were able to select a brand new pair of shoes for school.

This opportunity supports programs in providing a much needed resource to families in need and bolsters students' self-esteem and overall social-emotional well-being. Thank you Union-Tribune for your continued support of San Diego County students!



*Expanded Learning students  
receive new pair of shoes*



# The San Diego Seals In Expanded Learning



San Diego Seals visit Lakeside Middle School, Lakeside Union School District

The sport of lacrosse originates from a tribal game known as stickball, played by the Algonquian tribe from the St. Lawrence Valley of the United States of America and Canada. Since then, lacrosse has been modified to the sport that is now growing in popularity at the middle school, high school and college levels.

The San Diego Seals, a professional lacrosse team in San Diego, established an introduction program to lacrosse in order to promote philanthropy, good citizenship and the growing interest of the sport throughout Southern California. For the 2018-19 school year, the Children’s Initiative partnered with the San Diego Seals to introduce lacrosse to San Diego Expanded Learning Consortium programs.

Each participating expanded learning program was able to select one of three programs which included a visit from players from the San Diego Seals team, a brief introduction to lacrosse led by Seals players and complimentary tickets to one of the Seals home games for the 2018-19 season. The three programs offered were:

- **Healthy and Active Lifestyles** – This program focused on being active, eating healthy, getting the adequate amount of sleep and being a successful student.
- **Bullying Awareness** – This program focused on teaching expanded learning students how to identify bullying and how to stand up to it safely.
- **Introduction to Lacrosse Clinic** – This program provided expanded learning students with lacrosse lessons. Students learned basic catch and throw techniques while playing the game.

During the 2018-19 school year, 7 Consortium programs within 3 school districts and 4 charter schools participated in the introduction to lacrosse program. For many students, this was their first experience with lacrosse.



San Diego Seals visit King Chavez Athletics Academy



# COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

## Fostering Legislative Support for ASES Programs

In 2018-19, the Children's Initiative coordinated and hosted visits for elected officials and their staff to state-funded After School Education and Safety (ASES) elementary and middle school programs. These visits emphasize the outstanding opportunities and experiences expanded learning programs offer students including academic support, an array of enrichment activities (e.g. gardening, visual and performing arts, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, cooking, sports and leadership rolls). School officials shared the significant benefit of seamless and integrated collaboration between the core school day and the expanded learning program to achieve school goals.

These visits increase awareness about the value expanded learning programs provide for students, parents, families and communities. Elected officials and elected official representatives can observe and learn firsthand how expanded learning programs touch many different areas of the community around them including, but not limited to: supporting English Language Learners to improve their language skills, improve school attendance, reduce dropout rates, promote healthy lifestyles, prevent youth substance use, keep students engaged during critical hours for crime involving youth, thus, reducing juvenile crime, promote the development of 21st century skills and helping working parents by providing supervision for their children.

On June 27, 2019, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the California State Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20, which included an additional \$50 million in ongoing funding for the ASES programs. Increased funding will permit ASES programs to keep serving low-income students and working families across California. This significant achievement was made possible through the work of key legislators who serve as committed champions for expanded learning programs. During the 2018-19 school year, the Children's Initiative coordinated and hosted visits at four sites.



Lucas Cruz, Field Representative, Office of Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, 80<sup>th</sup> District visited Rice Elementary School, Chula Vista Elementary School District



Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber, 79<sup>th</sup> District, visited Harriet Tubman Village Charter School



Lucas Cruz, Field Representative, Office of Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez, 80<sup>th</sup> District visited Chula Vista Middle School, Sweetwater Union High School District



Kristen Rehmyer, District Representative, Office of State Senator Patricia Bates, 36<sup>th</sup> District, visited Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, Oceanside Unified School District

# CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PARTNERS

Alliance BJJ Eastlake  
Alvarado Institute of Skin Care  
Barnes & Noble  
Beach Break Café  
Beast Academy  
Belmont Park  
Bite San Diego  
Boomers  
Boudin San Francisco  
Brainy Actz  
California Ballet  
Cheesecake Factory - Escondido  
Chick-fil-A Clairemont  
Children's Discovery Museum  
Christian Youth Theatre  
Cinema - North Park  
Circus Vargas  
City Ballet of San Diego  
Crispy's Donuts  
Cygnet Theatre  
Dietz and Watson  
Eclipse Chocolates  
Einstein Bros. Bagels  
Escapism Puzzle Room  
Five Guys  
Ghost Tours Haunted San Diego  
Green Field Paper  
Havana Grill  
Hornblower Cruises & Events  
Hyatt Palm Springs  
Hyatt Regency Sacramento  
In-N-Out Burger  
JCompany Youth Theatre  
Jewish Family Service  
Krispy Cream Donuts  
La Jolla Playhouse  
La Jolla YMCA  
Lambs Theatre  
Landmark Theatre  
Lolita's Mexican Food  
Living Coast Discovery Center  
Majesty in Motion  
Media Arts Center San Diego, Digital Gym  
Museum of Making Music  
North Park Massage  
Oriental Trading Company  
Pete's Seafood & Sandwich  
Picaboo  
Pony Shoes  
Queen Bee Zumba  
Ray & Joan Kroc Center  
ResMed  
Richard Walkers Pancake House  
San Diego State Aztec Football  
San Diego Children's Discovery Museum  
San Diego Civic Youth Ballet  
San Diego Council on Literacy  
San Diego Fleet  
San Diego Ice Arena  
San Diego Junior Theatre  
San Diego Museum of Man  
San Diego Padres  
San Diego Seals  
San Diego Sockers  
San Diego State Aztecs Basketball  
San Diego State Aztec Football  
San Diego Symphony  
San Diego Union Tribune  
Scentsy Candles by Rikki  
Scholastic  
Sealed by Fate  
Senor Grubby's  
Sky Zone  
Starbucks  
Target  
The Baked Bear  
The Cottage  
The Lot  
The Original Pancake House  
The San Diego Union Tribune  
Therapeutics Clinical Research  
Tickets for Kids Charities  
UltraZone Laser Tag  
Universal Studios - Movies  
University of San Diego Basketball  
Urbane Cafe  
Vintage Movie Cinemas  
Windmill Farms Market  
Wine & Canvas

## Educational Partners

The  **Children's Initiative**

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