



# Region VII After School Programs Technical Assistance Newsletter

## Regional Technical Assistance Support Team

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## Regional Lead Office Begins Conducting Site Visits

As many of you are aware and have participated in, Senate Bill 707 and Senate Bill 854 are two after school bills that were signed by the Governor yesterday afternoon.

Below is a summary of each bill for your review:

### **SENATE BILL 707 (Kehoe)**

SB 707 helps ASES funded after school programs gain the flexibility they will need when Proposition 49 takes effect, allowing them to serve more children, allows programs to operate more efficiently, and reduces the estimated 20% of state after school funding that goes unspent each year and reverts to the state general fund. Most of these provisions will also apply to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program.

Some of the improvements include:

- **Program Hours:** replaces current requirement of being open three hours per day and until 6 p.m. with 15 hours per week and until 6 p.m.
- **Before School Attendance:** Before-school programs may be reimbursed on a daily basis for any student who attends at least half of the program, replacing the 90 minute attendance requirement. Programs are still required to be open at least 90 minutes.

These provisions will be **effective January 1, 2006**.

**To view bill, go to:** [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb\\_0701-0750/sb\\_707\\_bill\\_20050909\\_enrolled.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_0701-0750/sb_707_bill_20050909_enrolled.html)

### **SENATE BILL 854 (Ashburn)**

SB 854 will reinforce budget language that increased the daily per child rate for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program from \$5 to \$7.50, increased maximum grant levels, and guarantees 15 percent administrative costs, regardless of attendance.

The bill also includes an increase to \$5 for before-school programs.

**To view bill, go to:**

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb\\_0851-0900/sb\\_854\\_bill\\_20050912\\_enrolled.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_0851-0900/sb_854_bill_20050912_enrolled.html)

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## Welcome to September's Strategy of the Month

The students you serve likely have a plethora of questions about Hurricane Katrina. This month's strategy helps students explore issues around Katrina and hurricanes in general while demonstrating the relevance and importance of nonfiction text. The strategy is posted towards the bottom of this e-mail.

Please let us know how you decide to use the strategy by e-mailing us at [success@americalearns.net](mailto:success@americalearns.net).

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Wishing you a ton of success this school year,  
[The America Learns Team](#)

**With funding from Arkansas' Department of Education, Valley View Elementary School in Jonesboro, Arkansas recently joined the Network!**

More than 70 service learning students help 40 Valley View students strengthen their literacy skills and strategies during afterschool hours. We're honored that Valley View has selected the Network to help ensure its tutors provide superior support to its students.

**We're extraordinarily excited to announce our new partnership with [Peace Games](#), a national leader in empowering students to create their own safe classrooms and communities.**

Continuing to recognize and act on the reality that so many tutors and mentors' on-the-ground challenges involve interpersonal and social-emotional issues, beginning this month, all America Learns Network members will have access to a wealth of Peace Games' superior cooperative game-based conflict resolution, cultural understanding and peacemaking activities. In return, America Learns will provide Peace Games with consultation around its emerging on-line support system to maintain communication and learning among Peace Games schools across the country. We're thrilled that the students we reach will have access to the wonderful resources Peace Games has developed, field tested and strengthened in diverse communities nationwide.

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**Grace Chiu, our Reading Strategies Expert, played the lead role in developing [City Year's](#) new Literacy Tutoring Manual this summer. The manual covers a wealth of topics, including guidelines for literacy tutoring, working in schools, how children learn, and cross-age tutoring. The manual also includes five strategies from the America Learns Network's National Strategy Database.**

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More than 70 service learning students help 40 Valley View students strengthen their literacy skills and strategies during afterschool hours.

City Year has generously provided our Strategy of the Month recipients with free access to its manual throughout September. You can download the manual [here](#).

***Demonstrating the Importance of Reading Nonfiction by Exploring Hurricane Katrina***

**Materials:** Because this strategy involves reading about a current event, it involves printing out relevant material from the Internet and/or bringing in newspaper and magazine articles about the event.

**Situation:** We read different kinds (genres) of reading material for different reasons. We often read fiction for the joy of reading, to let our imagination take us to other times and places, and to explore familiar and new themes. Meanwhile, we primarily read nonfiction to learn.

This strategy helps students learn the various purposes for reading nonfiction and informational texts while making reading nonfiction seem more relevant to their lives. Most of the examples revolve around [Hurricane Katrina](#), providing you with concrete ideas of how you can discuss the event with your students.

**Purpose 1:**  
**To learn new information**

For example, if you are reading about [Hurricane Katrina](#), you can find new and updated information in your local newspaper, on online news sites ([sample 1](#); [sample 2](#)), or through an [online news weather source](#). Read through some of these materials with your students and ask questions such as:

- What did you learn from reading this article that you didn't already know?
- Which type of text did you find easier to read (e.g., the newspaper or a print out of an online news article)? What are the reasons you feel this way?

**Purpose 2:**  
**To satisfy your curiosity or put your mind at greater ease**

Explain to your students, "One of the best things I do to satisfy my curiosity or fear of something is to simply try to learn more about that thing. Where do you think we could learn more about Hurricane Katrina, about [hurricanes in general](#), and how people can [prepare for hurricanes](#)?" (Consider bringing in texts such as the ones linked to in this paragraph.)

NOTE: If students are fearful of natural disasters like hurricanes, acknowledge that it is okay and perfectly normal to be afraid; then, encourage them to read and learn about how people can [prepare for those events](#).

Follow this link for a great resource for kids about how to prepare for a natural disaster.

[www.nationalgeographic.com/ngkids/0308/hurricane/survival\\_tips.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngkids/0308/hurricane/survival_tips.html)

**Purpose 4:****To understand our world more fully**

Using this [map](#), show your students how people in other parts of the world describe and think about hurricanes. Did you know that hurricanes are also known as "cyclones" or "typhoons" in other parts of the world?

**Purpose 5:****To understand new concepts and learn new vocabulary**

There are a lot of new concepts you can learn about weather-related phenomena: did you know that all hurricanes have "[eyes](#)" and there are scientists called "[hurricane hunters](#)" who chase after them?

**Purpose 6:****To write good nonfiction**

Finally, explain to your students that by reading good nonfiction, they are more likely to write better nonfiction themselves. One of the best ways you can model good writing is to simply read good writing with your students. Please note that you can find a selection of children's books on disasters [here](#). Network members can also use some of the strategies listed below to further support students' reading of nonfiction material.

**Please cite this strategy if you copy it.**

September 2005's America Learns Strategy: Demonstrating the Importance of Reading Nonfiction by Exploring Hurricane Katrina. <http://americalearns.net/strategy.htm>.

**Contact Us:**

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**6 Purposes to this exercise:**

1. To learn new information
2. To satisfy your curiosity or put your mind at greater ease
3. To make connections to our lives and learning
4. To understand our world more fully
5. To understand new concepts and learn new vocabulary
6. To write good nonfiction

## Youth Etiquette and Character Education Program

California 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC Directors:

*Lessons in Gracious Living* and *Lessons in Grooming A Gentleman*, appropriate for 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, are gender specific curricula that come as a teacher's guide and student workbook. *The Charming Child* is a coed curriculum appropriate for grades 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>.

The lessons are easy to follow, unique for students, and very much affordable. These curricula are written so that any adult who is interested in teaching or learning etiquette can teach the program, even if they do not have any prior etiquette background. This program has also proven to be well received and successful for city kids, as the program began in two Hartford, Connecticut city schools.

The curricula has in-class hands on activities, out on the town activities, power point presentations, and in class demonstrations, where the participants are able to teach their peers who may not be in the program. The lessons are structured around four units: Your Best Self, Social Leadership, Social Literacy, and The Social Graces. The units for *The Charming Child* are: Putting Your Best Self Forward, Developing Responsibility, Social Letters, and the Social Graces. By utilizing the curriculum in its totality, the participant, both teacher and student, emerge as well rounded, polished citizens.

Some organizations that have purchased and implemented our program include but are not limited to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, The Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc., OPMAD (Organized Parents Make A Difference), Education Connection, The Girl Scouts, public schools, and individual moms & dads. As the beginning of the year approaches, now is the time for your site to secure this quality program for the fall of 2005.

*Teen Etiquette: Lessons in Gracious Living*, *Teen Etiquette: Lessons in Grooming A Gentleman*, and *The Charming Child* are not just about which fork to pick up. They are about teaching all who participate that gracious living is accessible to anyone who seeks it.

For more information contact:  
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Some organizations that have purchased and implemented our program include but are not limited to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, The Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc., OPMAD (Organized Parents Make A Difference), Education Connection, The Girl Scouts, public schools, and individual moms & dads.

### [SCHOOLS CHIEF JACK O'CONNELL ANNOUNCES AFTER SCHOOL EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS](#)

SACRAMENTO – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced today that 95 grants have been awarded for the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program. This program provides renewable three-year grants to fund before and after school programs that provide tutoring or homework assistance for K-9th grade students in core academics and educational enrichment that may include fine arts, recreation, and physical fitness.

“After school programs are key to the success of many California school children,” O'Connell said. “These programs provide academic support, enrichment activities, and a safe environment that promotes students' health and social and emotional growth. I am pleased that these grant funds will continue to expand high quality after school options for students and their parents.”

Grant recipients include local educational agencies (LEAs) cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations in partnership with the approval of the LEA. Funding priority is given to schools that have 50 percent or more of its students eligible to receive free and reduced-cost meals through the United States Department of Agriculture's National School Lunch Program.

To view the complete grantee list, please visit: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/r8/ases05result.asp>

### [After School Health Summit- Come On Get Healthy! Conference](#)

After School Health Summit- Come On Get Healthy! Conference on Saturday, September 24, 2005. We are offering healthy breakfast and lunch!

Amazing keynote speakers will share their knowledge and help you help your students. Over 12 awesome workshops with trainers that will jump start you in finding solutions- not to mention all of the FREE curriculum you'll get!

Visit our Community Partner and Vendor Fair starting at 7:30am with lots of FREE resources to take back to your after school program as well as purchase materials to assist you and your staff.

Send in your registration form now and we'll see you soon!

If you would like hardcopies of the brochure mailed to you, please contact Tia Quinn. Otherwise, they will be available on these websites [www.calsac.org](http://www.calsac.org) or [www.sdcoe.net/rtac](http://www.sdcoe.net/rtac). You can also find the registration forms on the websites.

For more information contact:

Tia Quinn

P: 619.682.5260

F: 619.718.4999

[tiaquinn@sdcoe.net](mailto:tiaquinn@sdcoe.net)

[www.sdcoe.net/rtac](http://www.sdcoe.net/rtac)

...95 grants have been awarded for the After School Education and Safety (ASES) Program.

## [Increasing Awareness and Understanding of Agriculture Among California's Educators and Students](#)

### 1. *Imagine this...* Writing Contest

Deadline: Nov. 1, 2005

Students in grades 3-8 can fine-tune their writing and research skills while creating a 750-word essay showcasing agriculture. Teachers like the contest because it provides an opportunity for accolades related to academics; students like the contest because it's fun to be creative.

Prizes are awarded on both regional and statewide levels, and the six top stories become animated vignettes featured in a 30-minute video.

For details, explore [www.cfaitc.org](http://www.cfaitc.org) or contact [Nancy Gutierrez](#) at 800/700-AITC.

### 2. *Imagine this...* Kids' Writing Workshop

Wed., Sept. 21, 2005 3:30 p.m.

Elk Grove Community Library, 8962 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA

This workshop for grades 3-8 will include tips on how to develop characters and research an agricultural topic for their [Imagine this... writing contest](#) entry.

For more information, contact [Nancy Gutierrez](#) at 800/700-AITC.

### 3. California AITC Conference Tours

Oct. 20-22, 2005, Sacramento

Spaces are filling fast! Pre-conference to Sly Park and Apple Hill is limited to the first 50 to sign-up. Regular tours are available on a first come basis. Register online to reserve a place on your favorite tour:

#### **Tour 1: American River Water Education & Cordova Recreation & Park District**

Experience interactive sessions and a walk through the xeriscape garden at the American River Water Education Center at Folsom Dam. The Nimbus Fish Hatchery, a Sacramento Valley Live Steamer train ride, and Storytime in the Barnyard with Reading Haystack will explore agriculture through history, literature, art and science.

#### **Tour 2: Yolo & Solano Fibers, Dairy Goats & the World of Endive**

The Yolo Wool Mill and dairy goats at McCosker Farms will link to learning about dry land farming and a new compatible extension of agriculture that is sprouting wind turbines. The only American producer of endive, California Vegetable Specialties will share how chicory, a common roadside weed, becomes endive on your plate.

#### **Tour 3: UC Davis College of Ag & Environmental Sciences**

Cutting edge science, gardening activities and getting behind the wheel of a tractor will all be a part of this in-depth tour of UC Davis College of Ag & Environmental Sciences! Stops include the Children's Garden, Market Garden, Center for Plant Reproductive Biology and the Joe A. Heidrick Western Center for Agricultural Equipment.

After School Health Summit- Come On Get Healthy! Conference on Saturday, September 24, 2005

Cost: \$15 per session  
Three workshops will be available this fall for parents and educators to support school garden programs through fun, hands-on activities.

#### **Tour 4: Yolo County's Bounty & More--All Aboard!**

A ride aboard the Sacramento River Train will roll through the Yolo Wildlife Refuge on the longest wooden bridge in the West. Travel along the Sacramento River and through scenic farmland with stops including Joe Yeung Farms and Del Rio Botanical to visit with Suzanne Peabody Ashworth, botanist, farmer, teacher and recognized authority on seeds.

#### **Tour 5: El Dorado's Apple Hill Agri-tourism Adventures**

Learn all about El Dorado County's McGee's Tree Farm/Carson Ridge Evergreens, the Louisiana Schnell Elementary School's Garden of Learning, and Boeger Winery. The School Garden of Learning is used as a "model" by the University of California Cooperative Extension to demonstrate sound school gardening practices. After three decades of wine production, Boeger Winery remains small featuring 25 plus varietals and using more than 90 percent of their own grapes.

#### **Tour 6: Bon Voyage on Delta Ecotours & Hartland Nursery**

The Tule Queen will take this group on a journey exploring the Sacramento Delta by boat. Specific topics include early Spanish and pioneer history, effects of the gold rush era, farming, plant and animal life and water issues. Native plants will be the focus of the exhibits and instructional sessions at Hartland Nursery.

Tour 4 is almost full. [Register online](#) today!!

#### **4. Project WET Facilitator Workshop**

This 8-hour workshop provides training in using the Project WET activities with students. Project WET activities are correlated to the State Standards for Science, History/Social Studies and English/Language Arts. Each seminar participant will receive a copy of the Project WET Curriculum and Activity Guidebook and a Facilitator's Handbook with all the information necessary to conduct a Project Wet workshop. Cost is \$10

**Sat., Oct. 1, 2005 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

San Joaquin River Parkway Trust, Willow Lodge, 2020 E. Birkhead, Fresno 93720

**Fri., Dec. 2, 2005 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

The Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon 92019

For more information, visit [www.watereducation.org](http://www.watereducation.org) or contact [Brian Brown](#) at 916/444-6240.

#### **5. Livestock Leaders and Educators Symposium**

Sat. Oct. 29, 2005, Stockton

This event provides educational materials, reference guides, and handouts about youth livestock programs. Could be particularly useful for FFA, 4-H and Grange members and leaders, educators, fair staff, and others. Register by Oct. 23 to guarantee handouts. \$30 for adults, \$10 for youth.

For more information, contact [fun@sanjoaquinfair.com](mailto:fun@sanjoaquinfair.com) or 209/466-5041.

**6. 2005 Organic School Garden Awards**

Deadline: Postmarked Oct. 31, 2005

This essay and poster contest is for K-12 students who feel they can improve their health and the health of the earth by gardening. Essays should be 800 words or less about the garden in which they work. The poster portion of the contest includes creating a representation of one's garden using four photographs. First place is \$1,000.

For more information, visit [www.kidsregen.org](http://www.kidsregen.org).

**7. Scotts Draw Your State Flower National Contest**

Deadline: Nov. 1, 2005

Available to students in K-6 grades, one winner will be chosen from each of the 50 states. Each winner will receive a \$250 cash prize and his/her artwork will be displayed at the new National Garden at the U.S. Botanic Garden in Washington, DC.

For more information, entry form, and certificate of participation visit [www.scotts.com](http://www.scotts.com)

**From past issues:****UC Davis School Garden Workshops**

Cost: \$15 per session

Three workshops will be available this fall for parents and educators to support school garden programs through fun, hands-on activities. Participants will gain ideas and materials to support their educational work in school gardens, and most activities are linked to CA state academic standards.

- The Power of Perennials - Sept. 24, 2005
- Where the Wild Things Are: Insects in the Garden - Sept. 24, 2005
- Gardens For Good Nutrition - Oct. 8, 2005

For more information, visit [childrensgarden.ucdavis.edu](http://childrensgarden.ucdavis.edu) or contact [Katie Hume](#) at 530/752-7655.

**September is...****National 5-A-Day Month**

Increase the amount of fruits and vegetables you eat to five or more servings a day! The result: better health and a reduced risk of chronic diseases.

**Sep. 17****Harvest Moon**

The full moon closest to the autumnal equinox is called the harvest moon because, historically, farmers could continue harvesting into the night, by the light of the moon.

Find out more about what's happening agriculturally at the AITC Calendar: [www.cfaitc.org](http://www.cfaitc.org)

Increase the amount of fruits and vegetables you eat to five or more servings a day!

## **Funding**

### **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services -- Healthy Tomorrow's Partnership for Children Program**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is seeking proposals for the Healthy Tomorrow's Partnership for Children Program. The purpose of the program is to stimulate innovative community-based programs that utilize prevention strategies to promote access to health care for children and their families.

<http://www.healthinschools.org/grants/ops392.asp>

### **The National Education Foundation -- Learning & Leadership and Innovation Grants**

The National Education Foundation provides grants to support public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of the following two purposes: Learning & Leadership or Innovation.

<http://www.healthinschools.org/grants/ops394.asp>

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The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is seeking proposals for the Healthy Tomorrow's Partnership for Children Program.

## Lights On Afterschool!

Afterschool for All by 2010

### ***Lights On Afterschool is Coming - October 20, 2005!***

Join this 6th annual nationwide celebration of afterschool programs.

We've heard about 1,000 events in the works -- but we know that more of you are planning to celebrate... Please register, and let us know your plans! We're hoping to exceed last year's record of 7,000+ events.

Sign up by September 9th and you will be entered to win a *Lights On Afterschool* Support Kit: \$500 gift certificate from [www.discountschoolsupply.com](http://www.discountschoolsupply.com), 200 blinking *Lights On* strobe buttons and 100 *Lights On Afterschool* posters.

We've made it easier to register.

To sign up, just click on this [link](#), and update your information as needed. If you are registering multiple events, [click here](#).

You will receive Event Planner Emails with tips, tools and artwork, plus 10 *Lights On Afterschool* posters.

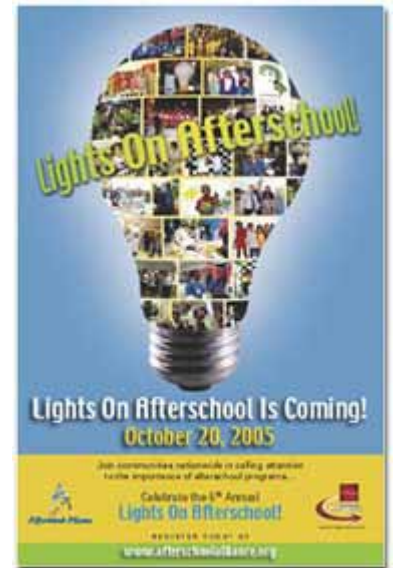
Thank you for joining us in calling attention to the importance of afterschool programs this October 20, 2005.

### TIPS

- Need supplies for your celebration? Use the code "A4A" and receive 10% off at [www.discountschoolsupply.com](http://www.discountschoolsupply.com)
- We've made it easier to register multiple events - simply enter the total amount of events you want to post, and add addresses as needed.
- Visit the [Planning Checklist](#) to make sure you're on target
- Check out 2005 [artwork and poster](#)

For more Information you can click on this link:

[http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights\\_on/index.cfm](http://www.afterschoolalliance.org/lights_on/index.cfm)



Sign up and you will be entered to win a *Lights On Afterschool* Support Kit: \$500 gift certificate from [www.discountschoolsupply.com](http://www.discountschoolsupply.com), 200 blinking *Lights On* strobe buttons and 100 *Lights On Afterschool* posters.