



Willits Unified School District Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Plan

Local Educational Agency (LEA) Name: Willits Unified School District
Contact Name: Arora Chavez, Executive Director of Student Programs
Contact Email: arorachavez@willitsunified.com
Contact Phone: 707-459-4801

School Sites Selected to operate ELO-P:

1. Brookside Elementary School
2. Blosser Elementary School
3. Sherwood School
4. Baechtel Grove Middle School

Purpose

This document aids in the development of a program plan as required by EC Section 46120(b)(2). In this program plan, WUSD will describe program activities that support the whole child, and students' Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and development.

Definitions

"Expanded learning" means before school, after school, summer, or intersession learning programs that focus on developing the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs and interests of pupils through hands-on, engaging learning experiences. It is the intent of the Legislature that expanded learning programs are pupil-centered, results driven, include community partners, and complement, but do not replicate, learning activities in the regular school day and school year. (EC Section 8482.1[a])

"Expanded learning opportunities" has the same meaning as "expanded learning" as defined in EC Section 8482.1. "Expanded learning opportunities" does not mean an extension of instructional time, but rather, opportunities to engage pupils in enrichment, play, nutrition, and other developmentally appropriate activities. (EC Section 46120[e][1])

Instructions

This Program Plan needs to be approved by the WUSD's Governing Board in a public meeting and posted on the WUSD's website.

The program plan is considered a living document that is periodically reviewed and adjusted to reflect the needs of the community, updates in the law, and to provide continuous improvement in the development of an effective ELO-P.

WUSD is responsible for creating, reviewing, and updating the program plan every three years in accordance with EC Section 8482.3(g)(1). LEAs are encouraged to work collaboratively with partners and staff to develop and review the program plan. The LEA is responsible for the plan and the oversight of any community partners or subcontractors. The LEA should include any partners in the development and review of the plan. It is recommended that the plan be reviewed annually.

WUSD Responses to Quality Standards Elements

1. Safe and Supportive Environment

WUSD will work in partnership with Kids Club, a community based non-profit, to run Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELO) and After School Education and Safety (ASES) programs at three sites: Brookside Elementary School (TK-2), Blosser Elementary School (3-5), Sherwood School (K-5) and Baechtel Middle School (6-8). These programs are operated on Baechtel Grove Middle School and Blosser Elementary School sites, but there are plans to expand to Brookside. Buses to these sites are currently available for Sherwood School and Brookside Elementary.

All Kids Club staff are trained in the school safety measures. Staff also use positive behavioral supports (PBIS) to ensure student social and emotional needs are addressed as a part of the program.

Starting in summer 2023, the summer program will operate with WUSD staff implementing the morning curriculum, while Kids Club staff will implement the afternoon curriculum, for a total of nine hours per day. The summer program may take place at one campus with students from all schools participating.

Other non-school days will be planned and staffed by regular Kids Club employees for the required nine hours per day.

Occasional field trips may be offered as a part of the ELO program. In these situations, transportation will be provided by the district to the maximum extent possible. The ELO program may offer transportation home for participants if the budget and staffing allows. The district will use ELO-P funds to purchase additional vans to allow increased access to transportation.

WUSD will use ELO-P funds to construct and/or update classrooms at Brookside Elementary to accommodate the need for ELO programs serving TK-3 students. ELO-P funds will also be used for materials, supplies, professional development and personnel to run the program.

2. Active and Engaged Learning

The ELO program after school will offer:

- Daily academic support and enrichment, to support student academic success
- Daily recess and physical activity classes, to increase student activity levels and healthy exercise habits.
- Hands-on learning experiences, including STEAM and play based opportunities, utilizing a lesson planning format that promotes student exploration, problem solving and youth voice and leadership.

When available, the before school program at Brookside Elementary will provide physical activity as weather allows and free choice enrichment opportunities.

The summer program will offer:

- Academic activities and hands-on learning opportunities with credentialed teachers each morning at Brookside Elementary with WUSD staff.
- Activities each afternoon will be implemented by Kids Club staff and will focus on Social and Emotional Learning, creativity, physical activity, and S.T.E.A.M.
- Cultural enrichment, academic, arts and music are offered to TK-8 grade students through Nueatra Alianza's summer program, which is housed at one site.
- Field Trip opportunities

The non-school day program will offer:

- Activities implemented by Kids Club staff and focused on Social and Emotional Learning, physical activity, and S.T.E.A.M.
- Field Trip opportunities

3. Skill Building

The ELO programs will provide students with academic enrichment opportunities through targeted academic lessons using methods and materials that are research based, but different from the curriculum used during the regular school day.

Students will be provided access to enriching educational opportunities, physical movement classes, and long term enrichment projects. In all areas, students will be encouraged to use collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity during activities within the program.

In addition to the skill building opportunities mentioned above, the program will help students who are from underserved populations have access to additional instructional time. Staff is to provide targeted academic and social emotional support to students on a regular basis throughout the school year. These services will be offered on a weekly basis.

4. Youth Voice and Leadership

Students will have the opportunity to provide feedback about specific learning opportunities immediately after the opportunity is provided. Instructors will expand the lesson or modify it upon reflection and evaluation based upon student response. The ELO staff will ask students for their input on activities and games when developing lesson plans. Students will also exercise choice about the activities they engage in during the program during free choice time. When choice time is offered, students will be able to choose among options that support Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) goals.

Additionally, students participating in the program, their parents and their classroom teachers will be asked to complete a survey about the program on an annual basis.

5. Healthy Choices and Behaviors

Staff will focus on healthy behaviors through daily recess and physical activity time blocks during the before and after school hours. Staff will also encourage students to be physically active, both during a free play recess and structured physical activities.

A healthy snack is provided to all participating students through our school cafeteria.

During the summer and non-school day program, students are provided a healthy breakfast, lunch, and snack each day.

In addition to the programming, the district administration seeks to use ELO-P funds to expand the available spaces for after school programs. The district would like to investigate some additional playground and technology equipment to support increased physical activity during the regular and non-school days.

6. Diversity, Access, and Equity

ELO programs will be open to serving all students from all the school sites, TK-8. Core day teachers will work closely with the staff to find ways to successfully serve all students during after school hours.

As long as funding is consistent, WUSD will not charge a fee to families of students participating in the ASES and ELO programs. In order to meet their financial obligations, Kids Club will have a fee.

Program Staff will create all paperwork and communication in both English and Spanish, making it accessible to the majority of district families.

Students with disabilities will be included in the program to the greatest extent possible. The district will make every effort to ensure students needing additional support to participate in the program have access to adequate personnel and program support. District staff will be available to meet regularly with ELO staff to provide strategies that support student success and access, and to provide assistance in creating a support plan when needed.

7. Quality Staff

Kids Club has a Program Director who will be responsible for the recruitment and training of quality after school staff. ELO program funds will allow the program to increase hourly pay rates, with the purpose of attracting a strong candidate pool and maintaining highly trained quality staff.

Staff will receive training before working with students as well as on the job apprenticeship opportunities. Staff will engage in monthly training opportunities to enhance their professional skills as well as local and regional training events.

Staff will be assigned a set group of students. They will purposefully engage with those students daily to build and maintain relationships with the students and their families.

WUSD and Kids Club will also employ credentialed teachers to provide additional support and instruction to students. The summer program will utilize credentialed teachers to run the morning academic sessions for students. Afternoons will be run by the same staff who run the ASES and ELO programs during the school year.

8. Clear Vision, Mission, and Purpose

Kids Club is an after school program providing a safe learning environment that enriches the lives of students. The program is designed in collaboration with each school site, seeking support and engagement from teachers and families in order to best support all students. The ELO program will build on the success of the Kids Club, while providing additional opportunities through the ELO program funds for all students to be engaged in the expanded learning process.

9. Collaborative Partnerships

Willits Unified School District collaborates with Kids Club, Nuestra Alianza and Imagination Station to provide enrichment programs. These partnerships with community agencies provide additional educational, recreational and enrichment opportunities for the students of Willits and the community.

In addition to the partnerships, WUSD will continue to work with community groups to ensure students have access to a well rounded program with many engagement and access points. Short term learning opportunities ranging from days to several weeks will be offered in conjunction with the community.

WUSD will continue to foster a working relationship with the county, regional and state agencies (such as the California Afterschool Network) to ensure the collaborative maintains quality programming and implements best practices. The WUSD business office will work closely with the C.D.E. representatives to ensure fiscal and program requirements are met.

10. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

Each school site team individually or collaboratively creates a CQI plan annually at the beginning of the school year, using the California Quality Standards as a basis for their improvement goals and then plan activities to meet those goals for the year. The staff also considers survey data and feedback from the district, families, teachers, and students. The CQI plan aims to enhance the program each year and is assessed monthly by the program staff.

District and Kids Club leadership meet monthly to discuss the program's progress and needs.

District and Kids Club leadership will meet after the first summer program to reflect on successes and challenges and set summer program goals for the following year and will ensure that the ELO program staff are providing input into the process.

11. Program Management

WUSD Superintendent, Kids Club Director, and the Nuestra Alianza Director will maintain oversight of the ELO programs. Monthly meetings will be held to check on the progress of the programs and make any adjustments needed to better align with the program goals.

12. Existing After School Education and Safety (ASES) and 21st Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Elementary and Middle School grantees.

The ELO program funds will be used to expand the existing ASES program (Kids Club) to allow for greater enrollment and flexibility for families. The current ASES program requires specified attendance targets and student time in program to meet grant requirements. These specified times and attendance requirements can be relaxed with ELO funded opportunities, will meet the needs of the students and families, will provide greater access to the program, and will eliminate the need to place non-priority students on a waiting list.

In addition to the core program, Kids Club will offer opportunities for certified teachers to provide instructional support and enrichment to students on a smaller scale with short term classes and learning opportunities. Long term opportunities for school staff are likely to be available within the program as well.

13. Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten

Kids Club will seek to recruit and maintain staff with preschool-age and child development experience. We will use the increased ELO funding to ensure staff can be budgeted to maintain the 12-1 ratio and work the longer daily hours, which will be required for the TK program guidelines. TK classes have one certificated teacher along with a paraprofessional. Brookside has increased their services from a part-time to a full-time day.

Brookside has a morning session that begins at 7:30am - 8:10am with staff that works with TK students approximately 8:00 am - 2:30 pm daily. After school activities from 2:30-5:30pm will likely include: transportation to either Kids Club or Imagination Station, rest and story time, hands on arts, crafts, and play-based centers, outdoor games, and SEL activities; all occurring in short time blocks during the afternoon hours.

The Kindergarten program, which currently has the most extensive waiting list, will have the opportunity to expand and enroll all students who have an interest in attending the expanded day learning programs.

14. Sample Program Schedule

Before School and School Day Programming (grades 3-5)

7:30-8:00-Before School Activities

8:00-2:40-Core Day Instruction Hours

2:40-5:30-After School Program Hours through Kids Club

(7:30 AM - 5:30 pm is 10 hours daily)

Before School and School Day Programming (K-2):

7:30-8:00-Before School Activities

8:00-2:30-Core Day Instruction Hours

2:30-5:30-After School Program Hours (Kids Club or Imagination Station)

(7:30 AM - 5:30 pm is 10 hours daily)

Before School and School Day Programming (TK)

7:30-8:00-Before School Activities

8:00-2:40-Core Day Instruction Hours

2:30-5:30-After School Program Hours (Kids Club or Imagination Station)
(7:30 AM - 5:30 pm is 10 hours daily)

Early Release Days:

Program begins when school is released and runs until 5:30 PM

Summer Programming:

Brookside TK-5th grades (4 weeks)

8:30 - 12:30 - Morning Programming with Credentialed Teachers

12:30 - 5:30 - Afternoon Programming with Kids Club/Imagination Station

(8:30 - 5:30 is 9 hours of daily programming)

Nuestra Alianza & Kids Club TK-8th grades (4 weeks)

8:30 - 12:30 - Morning Programming with Credentialed Teachers

12:30 - 5:30 - Afternoon Programming with Kids Club/Imagination Station

(8:30 - 5:30 is 9 hours of daily programming)

Baechtel Grove Middle School (6th grade)

8:30-12:00 pm

12pm- 5:30pm - Afternoon programming through Kids Club

Other Scheduled Non-school Day Programming:

(WUSD meets program requirement to operate 30 non-school days)