



San Francisco Board of Education Parent Advisory Council

Community Conversations about After-School Services: Expanding Access to High-Quality Programs

The Parent Advisory Council is working with community partners – including SFUSD staff, the city’s Department of Children, Youth and Families, and after-school program providers – to develop sound strategies to expand high-quality after-school programs. As part of this process, the PAC is conducting Community Conversations with parents in order to:

- Understand the needs and priorities of families regarding after-school programs,
- Identify the strengths and challenges in current programs, and
- Develop recommendations to the Board of Education on strategies to increase access to high-quality programs throughout the district.

About the Community Conversations

- ➡ PAC members will facilitate a discussion with parents about after-school program needs, priorities and choices, and will conduct a brief written survey
- ➡ The conversation will take about an hour
- ➡ The community conversation can be added to meetings already being organized at your school, or scheduled separately at a time that works for your families
- ➡ We can provide refreshments, and can pay for childcare/translation as needed
- ➡ We can provide a flyer for the event (in English, Spanish & Chinese) to send families

Background

The PAC’s mission is to represent parent voices in Board of Education policy discussions. The PAC works to engage parents in the decision-making process and to build an active partnership for student achievement among families, the Board of Education, and district staff.

Over the past two years, the PAC has heard concerns from many parents about access to after-school programs for their children. While most schools have some type of after-school program, many parents do not have access to them: either the programs are full, their children aren’t eligible for the school-site program, or they can’t afford the private programs available at the school or nearby. We have learned that the quality of programs is uneven, and that parents aren’t sure if there are standards for the programs that do exist.

These community conversations will help us develop recommendations to both expand access to programs in the district, and strengthen the standards for high-quality programs.