



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND  
CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Jill Bourne

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** May 2, 2019

Approved

Date

5/2/19

## SUPPLEMENTAL

**SUBJECT: QUALITY STANDARDS FOR EXPANDED LEARNING  
PROGRAMMING**

## REASON FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL

This supplemental memorandum provides information and feedback from the April 11, 2019 Neighborhood Services and Education (NSE) Committee meeting.

## OUTCOME

The City Council will adopt the proposed California Afterschool Network (CAN) Quality Standards that have been developed by the California Department of Education and reviewed by NSE for all City-sponsored programs serving children and teens during times when they are not in formal academic environments, known as Expanded Learning.

## BACKGROUND

On May 7, 2018, the City Council held a special meeting regarding the Education and Digital Literacy Strategy. The San José Public Library, as lead department, partnered with other City departments Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services (PRNS), Work2Future, school districts and Santa Clara County Office of Education, collaborative organizations (First 5, Region 5), and established programs (SJ Learns, SJ Promise, SJ Works) to devise and present recommendations for a comprehensive citywide Education and Digital Literacy Strategy in three educational development areas:

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- Early Education - Entering School Ready to Learn and Succeed;
- Learning by Grade Level Proficiency - Expanding Education Beyond the School Day; and
- Pathways to Post-Academic Success - Graduating Ready for College and Career.

City Council provided feedback and gave direction regarding future policy, roles and governance, quality standards, and reporting expectations. In addition to giving unanimous approval of all recommendations, City Council directed staff, in partnership with appropriate networks and leading agencies, to “establish evidence-based quality standards for all programs that are City-funded, sponsored, or endorsed; align program standards with existing standards and program assessments whenever possible.”

## **ANALYSIS**

City-sponsored afterschool and summer programs already reach an estimated 30,000 youth annually. With students spending 80% of their time outside of the classroom, primarily during afterschool and summertime, it is key that all City-sponsored programs are of high quality, with well-trained staff and built-in assessments to ensure best practices of holistic education are implemented as fully as possible. Embedding quality standards, evaluations, and a data-driven approach to decision-making within City programs will create a baseline for understanding current program success and allow City staff to pilot programs that measure progress and create a built-in continuous quality improvement process to all City programs.

Expert-created quality standards and assessments that align with Common Core State Standards already exist within the area of Expanded Learning. The majority of afterschool and summer programs in San José and across the State of California utilize the CAN Standards, which provide 12 focus areas of both overall point of service quality and program quality. These standards are already being utilized in some City-run programs, such as PRNS’ ROCK and ASES-funded afterschool programs, having proven to be an effective addition to PRNS’ work in this focus area. The CAN Quality Standards are also a requirement of any programs funded by the City via the SJ Learns grant making program.

At the April 11, 2019 meeting, NSE reviewed and accepted the staff report on the adoption of the CAN Quality Standards for City programs that serve children and teens as specified by the Education and Digital Literacy Strategy. NSE recommended this item for full Council consideration and adoption at the May 7, 2019 Council meeting. NSE Committee members recommended that PRNS and Library departments work to expand partnerships with school districts to provide quality City programs on additional school sites. NSE Committee discussion also focused on the integration of programming and the importance of assessment.

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### **EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

If adopted by the City Council, the CAN Quality Standards will become the evaluation tool for existing programs and a benchmark for program growth targets. Staff will report annually on progress implementing the CAN Quality Standards to the NSE Committee.

### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

This memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the May 7, 2019 City Council meeting.

### **COORDINATION**

This report has been coordinated with the Department of Parks, Recreation Neighborhood Services.

### **COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION/INPUT**

The Library and Early Education Commission reviewed and approved the recommendations at the March 20, 2019 meeting.

### **CEQA**

Not a Project, File No. PP17-009, Staff Reports, Assessments, Annual Reports, and Informational Memos that involve no approvals of any City action.

/s/

JILL BOURNE

Director, Library Department

For questions, please contact Michelle Ornat, Deputy Library Director at 408-808-2112.