

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

Friday Memo
August 13, 2021

Upcoming Events – Dr. Kenneth C. Hurst

August 16: First Day of School

August 24: Redistricting Commission Meeting, 6:30 PM

August 25: Board of Education, 6:30 PM

Family & Community Engagement - LaResha Martin (Martine Blake & team)

WCCUSD has 30 school based expanded learning (alternately referred to as "after school") programs across the District with a total of 2,722 funded slots. These state and federally funded programs are required to operate from the end of the instructional day until 6pm every day that school is in session (programs may close for up to three days during the school year for professional development).

In WCCUSD, expanded learning programs are operated in partnership with youth serving nonprofits whose non-credentialed staff are charged with the daily operations of programs. Program components include structured time for social and emotional learning; homework support; physical activity; supper; and a variety of enrichment activities including visual and performing arts, STEM, college and career awareness and exploration, sports, and leadership.

COVID-19 has impacted school based expanded learning programs across the state. While our programs were able to pivot from in-person programming in the 2020-21SY through the waiving of administrative regulations by the state, to support virtual learning in the core instructional day, they are facing some unique challenges in the return to in-person this fall. The issue of statewide staffing challenges has been addressed publicly by CDE's Expanded Learning Division and has impacted our programs' ability to begin the start of the school year at full enrollment.

The underlying issue is that the expanded learning workforce is made up largely of low paid hourly, unbenefited employees. COVID has further decimated our workforce. The District's expanded learning partners continued to outreach and recruit via online job platforms as well as flyering at local community colleges. Some are now offering hiring bonuses as well as referral bonuses for existing staff. Partners are cautiously optimistic that once the District is able to release its contract amendments (which will include unspent carryover funds from 20-21FY), they will be able to offer more competitive wages.