

YMCA OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY



# YMCA EXPANDED LEARNING PROGRAMS

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## 2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT



# DEAR READERS,

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge and celebrate our dedicated staff and district and charter organization partners for their amazing work and resilience in the 2020–21 school year. Thanks to your hard work, we were able to provide safe, high-quality expanded learning programs for over 8,500 students across San Diego County.

This past year was filled with both unprecedented challenges and opportunities in Expanded Learning Programs and K-12 education overall. We continued to navigate Covid-19 and historic staffing shortages, all while creating new programs and services to support schools, students, and families. We expanded our summer and school intersession programs with new state funding, and increased our staff trainings on social-emotional learning, trauma-informed care, and equity, knowing this investment would support staff to build positive relationships with students and support them in their social-emotional growth.

We partnered with several new organizations to expand and improve our enrichment opportunities for students. These critical community partnerships allowed our students to explore and learn new skills, such as coding and robotics, and visual and performing arts.

We are also thankful for California’s historic investments in K-12 schools and public-funded afterschool programs. The continued support of the After School Education & Safety Program and the new, historic investment in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program will help us continue to provide high-quality expanded learning programs and serve more schools, students, and families in the coming years. We’re grateful for the continued support of these valuable programs and we’ll continue to advocate for the resources our students need to thrive.

As we move into the new year, we remain united in our commitment to meeting the needs of students and families. Again, I want to thank our staff for their passion, creativity, and endless commitment to supporting our students. I am looking forward to continued partnerships and innovations in the coming year as we strive to expand access to quality expanded learning opportunities for more students and families across San Diego County.

Thank you for being part of our community!

Sincerely,



Steve Hensel  
Executive Director  
YMCA Expanded Learning Programs

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT:



[www.ymcasd.org/expanded-learning-programs](http://www.ymcasd.org/expanded-learning-programs)



[/YMCAELP](https://www.facebook.com/YMCAELP)



[/YMCAELP](https://www.instagram.com/YMCAELP)

# OUR APPROACH

YMCA of San Diego County’s Expanded Learning Programs partner with school districts and charter organizations to provide state and federally funded before school, after school, and summer learning programs at no cost to eligible families across San Diego County. With a clear focus on developing academic, social, emotional, and physical skills and interests of students, our Expanded Learning Programs are intentionally tailored to student voice, school and district goals, and their unique communities.

**YMCA Expanded Learning Programs are designed in collaboration with district and charter school partners to:**



Create a safe and supportive space for students, families, and staff



Offer fun, active, and engaged learning environment for all students



Provide students with enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom that prepare them for college, career, and life



Give working families peace of mind that their children are receiving high-quality academic and social-emotional support during non-school hours



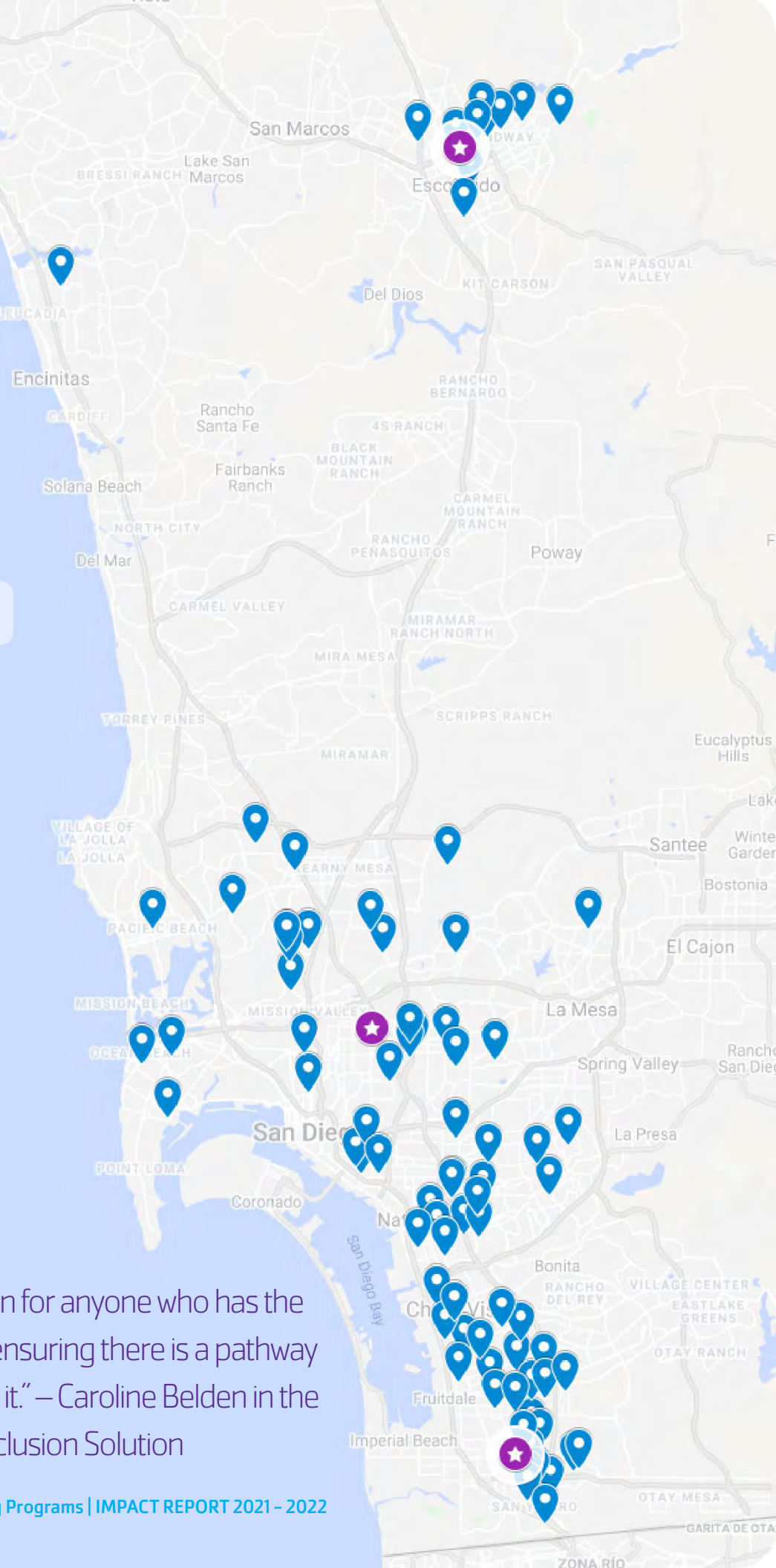
On average, 81% of the students in schools we serve qualify for free or reduced-price meals. It’s with our programs that working parents and caregivers can maintain employment, increase their earning potential, and advance their careers while their children continue to develop their social-emotional skills in a safe and inclusive environment. Expanded Learning Programs are an investment in our community’s future – providing families with the stability they need to succeed, while also ensuring that students have the support they need to grow and thrive.

# OUR REACH

As San Diego County's largest expanded learning provider, we are deeply committed to supporting children, families, and school districts in our community. This past year, we served **8,572 students** at **101 sites** across the county. We are proud of our **372 dedicated staff** members who made such a positive difference in so many lives.

 REGIONAL OFFICE
  SCHOOL SITE

“Equality is leaving the door open for anyone who has the means to approach it; equity is ensuring there is a pathway to that door for those who need it.” – Caroline Belden in the Equity vs. Equality Series, The Inclusion Solution

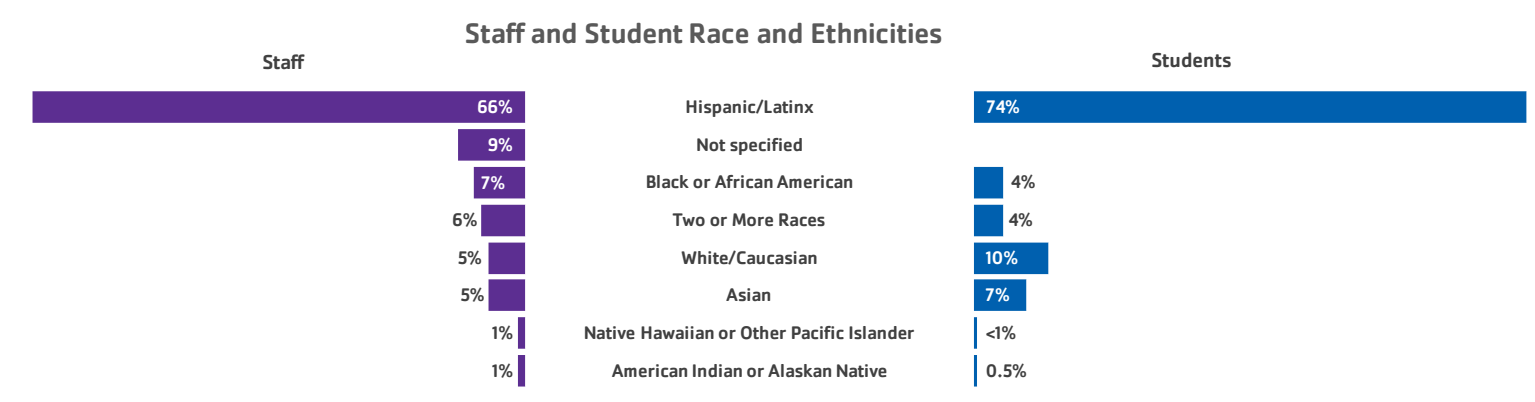


# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

At YMCA Expanded Learning Programs, we are committed to advancing equity and inclusion in all that we do, because every student deserves an equal opportunity to succeed. We know that a safe and inclusive environment is key to uplifting students' academic development and social-emotional well-being. That's why we create programs to be welcoming, supportive, and specialized to the unique needs of students, families, and their respective communities.

Our before school, after school, and summer programs provide a much-needed resource for working families living in communities with limited access to affordable, high-quality academic support and care. By offering accessible opportunities for students to participate in enrichment activities outside of the traditional school day, we can bridge opportunity gaps and improve students' educational outcomes and social and emotional learning.

Our programs are led by diverse, community-based para-educators who understand that school-based relationships are an important facet of youth development. By hiring staff members who reflect the diversity of our community, we can provide students with positive role models who relate to their perspective and can help them navigate the challenges and transitions youth face as they grow up. Our staff are often from the same community they work in, which gives them relevant perspectives and insights into the students they work with. This experience empowers our team with the knowledge and flexibility to create a program specific to community, school, family, and most importantly students' interests and priorities.



YMCA Expanded Learning Programs has formed an ELP Equity Team committed to creating opportunities for inner work that helps the outside world. With a focus on removing systemic barriers and increasing access to before and after school programming, the Equity Team strives to ensure every student, regardless of their background, identity, or social position, has access and opportunity to reach their full potential and thrive in our community.

In our commitment to ensuring that equity and inclusion are integrated within our service delivery approach across all levels, YMCA Expanded Learning Programs prioritizes staff learning experiences and professional development opportunities to build better understanding and define ways we can enhance equity, inclusion, and belonging within our programming.

# PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Students in YMCA Expanded Learning Programs create meaningful connections with supportive staff members who guide them through a range of activities that enhance their school day. Our programs are designed to promote social-emotional development and provide students with the skills they need to succeed in school and in life.

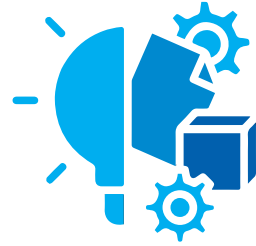
## Program activities involve:



Promoting healthy lifestyles by providing access to age-appropriate curricula and resources



Implementing nutrition and physical activity into all facets of program design and operating procedures, including fundraising, policies, curricula, and incentives



Leading students through meaningful and engaging learning opportunities and activities of their choice that prepare them to thrive in future academic and professional endeavors



Providing opportunities for students to think critically, as well as act on issues and opportunities that are important but also of high interest and relevance to them



Students at Mueller Charter School share how they are feeling each day. Noticing and naming emotions gives students a chance to discuss and reflect with others about their personal experience of the world, recognize the causes, and build positive coping techniques.



Students at Vista Square Elementary School have a "calming corner" they can visit with books and activities designed to calm emotions, teach daily affirmations, learn to express and respect boundaries, and feel safe.

# KEY PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

YMCA Expanded Learning Programs collaborates with partners and vendors who offer a diverse range of skills, expertise, and backgrounds. We are proud to collaborate with them to innovate and supplement our programming with engaging, hands-on activities that expose students to new passions, skills, and potential career pathways. These are just a few of our favorite highlights from this past year.



## FIRST TECH ROBOTICS CLUB IN ESCONDIDO

[First Tech](#) Robotics club offered a 5-week robotics program for students enrolled in our Expanded Learning Program at Escondido Union School District. This STEAM-based program offered an opportunity for students to work together to solve common problems, build science and engineering skills, and foster a love of learning and a desire to tinker and build.



## SKILL STRUCK COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAMS IN CHULA VISTA

The [Skill Struck](#) computer science program was piloted at five of our Expanded Learning Program sites in Chula Vista. Skill Struck introduces students to computer science concepts and skills through fun, engaging activities such as block-based coding, puzzles, and keyboarding. Skill Struck is focused on increasing equitable access to computer science for students that have limited access to computers or the internet at home. This has been a rewarding opportunity for students to learn coding and experience the satisfaction of learning this important skill.



[Watch a video about Skill Struck here](#)



## EMO BROWN FUNDRAISING

The Emo Brown Foundation is a dedicated partner who raised \$3,000 to support YMCA Expanded Learning Program families in the Chula Vista School District. Last year, they were able to provide six families with \$500 each.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

## Building a Just and Equitable Community Starts with Policy and Budget

YMCA Expanded Learning Programs is honored to collaborate with federal, state, and San Diego-based public partners to ensure community members receive high quality programs and services that honors their need and experience. In considering years of historic injustice, the education sector has room for continual quality improvement. What's more, the opportunity for advocacy to help public partners understand how their budget and policy decisions impact community members we work with and for is critically important. For this reason, YMCA ELP is committed to both doing this important work and changing the work to help create a value-based system. YMCA ELP is grateful to our federal, state, and local elected officials for their commitment to children, youth, and their families.

To learn more about this work, [please visit our Policy Vision](#).

The YMCA's Expanded Learning Programs are before and after school (and summer) programs funded by the California Department of Education in partnership with local school districts. California's Expanded Learning Programs include the After School Education & Safety (ASES) Program, 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program, and the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P).

To learn more about California's Expanded Learning Programs please visit [www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ex/](http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/ex/).

### Key Accomplishments:



#### INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES IN QUALITY OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME AND ENRICHMENT

YMCA Expanded Learning Programs are proud to partner with school districts in out-of-school time programming funded by the state. We applaud the State Legislature and Governor Gavin Newsom for their historic investment of \$4 billion dollars of new funding for the Expanded Learning Opportunity Program, which supports thousands of more students with access to quality programming in a safe and supportive space.



#### CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

To build resilience for students and families to unlock their potential for learning, YMCA Expanded Learning Programs supported a significant increase in investment for youth, their parents, and caregivers for mental and behavioral health support.



#### "TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS" INITIATIVE

The "Transforming Schools" initiative is a far-reaching effort by State Superintendent Tony Thurmond to improve California's K-12 public schools. The initiative aims to integrate new programs and strategies for students, families, educators, and local education agencies, with the goal of breaking the cycle of educational inequity.

Expanded Learning Programs are a key component of the initiative, and there will be additional investments that lead to increased access for students and families. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of California's young people, and we are committed to supporting this effort every step of the way.



## THANK YOU TO OUR DISTRICT & CHARTER SCHOOL PARTNERS!

- CHULA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
- DARNALL CHARTER SCHOOL
- EMPOWER LANGUAGE ACADEMY
- ENCINITAS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
- ESCONDIDO UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
- KING CHAVEZ NEIGHBORHOOD OF SCHOOLS
- MAGNOLIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- MUSEUM CHARTER SCHOOL
- NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
- SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
- SAN YSIDRO SCHOOL DISTRICT