

CalSERVES
Taylor Mountain Elementary School
Healthy Behaviors Learning Center



Contact Information

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Site Background

The CalSERVES afterschool program partners with six Santa Rosa elementary schools in two school districts. The program serves over 1,800 students each year providing academic support, enrichment, homework help, nutrition education and physical activities. The program serves children and families who are struggling with poverty and its associated challenges.

2014-2015:

- The site has been in operation since 2010 and was certified as a Healthy Behaviors Learning Center in September 2011.
- Taylor Mountain is 73 percent Hispanic, 16 percent Caucasian and 11 percent other. It serves 140 students. Seventy-six percent are eligible for free and reduced lunch.
- Staffing includes 1 full time site supervisor, 9 full and part time AmeriCorps afterschool members, 7 classroom leaders, 2 credentialed staff 4–6 hours/week (mentor teachers), and 1 part time school counselor. Site Supervisors engage in a week-long pre-program collaborative training meeting each July. Staff work together to develop, implement and evaluate all pre-service and ongoing training plans. There is a 1 to 20 adult to student ratio.

Making a Difference

- As measured by the California Standards Test (CST), students participating in the program have progressed in English/language arts from Far Below Basic and Below Basic to Basic and Proficient. There was an increase of 15 percent in students scoring proficient or advanced from 2009–10 to 2010–11.
- 40 percent of students gained at least one performance level on the CST.
- Students have a safe and productive place to go to afterschool with mentors who care about them.
- CalSERVES matches caring adults with struggling students to provide high quality small group tutoring.
- 56 Americorps members provided more than 75,000 hours of mentoring to more than 800 students.
- Students have become excited about learning, reading and overall improvement in school.

- Americorps members have also developed their leadership skills, confidence, self-discipline and time-management skills.

What We Do

Our program provides homework help and academic enrichment in literacy, math, science, nutrition education, physical activity, the arts, service learning and field trips

- Nutrition education clubs include strategies for applying what's learned in daily living.
- Cooking clubs focus on healthy eating and ways to incorporate fresh fruits and vegetables into everyday cooking and are open to parents.
- Gardening clubs provide hands-on nutrition education.
- Nutrition events include parent nights and nutrition decathlons. All events include healthy food demonstrations, tasting, nutrition education games and nutrition incentives for participants.
- Physical activity is incorporated daily with the SPARK curriculum during after school and is now being added during the regular school day with Active Recess games.
- Fitness Weeks happen twice a year and during these weeks sites conduct the Fitnessgram, collect pedometer steps and nutrition surveys for all participating students. In addition sites bring in PA and nutrition presenters and have a whole lot of fun.
- PEP funding has allowed us to update our equipment and necessary nutrition supplies.
- COOL Sports Challenges allows for some healthy and fun competition among our CalSERVES sites.

Our Funders

- AmeriCorps; California Department of Education; US Department of Education, Carol White Physical Education Grant, Federal Food Program, Counseling Grant and School District support.
- After School Education and Safety Act
- In addition to our funders, we have multiple community partners.

Additional Impacts of Our Program

We also focus on staff development to mentor and coach staff that includes program training binders and publications, intensive leadership team meetings, quarterly enrichment specialist meetings, teacher-buddy assignments, performance agreements, lesson observations and performance evaluations.