

# SB 949 NUTRITION: DISTINGUISHED AFTER SCHOOL HEALTH RECOGNITION PROGRAM

## **SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE**

Senate Bill-949 introduced by Senator Jackson will establish a Distinguished After-School Health (DASH) recognition program to be administered by the State Department of Public Health in consultation with the State Department of Education. This program will enable after-school programs to apply for self-certification as a program that meets prescribed requirements related to healthy eating and physical activity.

The Santa Barbara County legislative platform refers to the health in our community and supporting measures that promote healthy behaviors and activities to promote wellness.

## **PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT**

Childhood obesity poses a serious threat to children and their health. This certification program will encourage healthy foods, beverages, physical activity and limited screen time to after-school programs and licensed child care settings. This program will directly address behaviors associated with childhood obesity. Parents searching for after-school programs will be able to have information about healthy after-school programs and consider this information when making choices for their children.

## **COST TO GOVERNMENT**

There is no anticipated cost to local government. There are no identified costs yet. This bill will be going to the Appropriations Committee.

## **REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY**

Senator Jackson's office contacted our Public Health Department after receiving the Community Health Status Report recognizing our promotion of health. They are requesting a letter of support.

## **CONTACT**

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Honorable Ed Hernandez  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health  
State Capitol, Room 2191  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 949 (Jackson) After School DASH Programs – Support**

Dear Senator Hernandez:

On behalf of Santa Barbara County, I am writing to inform you of our support for SB 949 (Jackson), which encourages healthy foods, beverages, physical activity, and limited screen time in after-school programs and licensed childcare settings and incentivizes providers to adopt these standards through a state self-certification process.

Childhood obesity rates remain at dangerously high levels. Obese children are more likely to suffer from many health conditions that limit the quality of life, the cost of their healthcare and the longevity of life.

A poor diet and physical inactivity result in obesity. The California Health Interview Survey found that in Santa Barbara County, only 25.3% of children reported being physically active for at least one hour every day of the previous week. Low levels of activity are directly related to type 2 diabetes, vascular disease and cancers.

SB 949 would allow after-school programs to apply to be a California Distinguished After-School Healthy (DASH) Program. Programs that meet healthy eating and physical activity standards will be awarded a DASH certification; parents searching for a healthy after-school program will be able to find a list of DASH-certified programs on a state website and DASH-certified programs will be able to display their certifications onsite, and on their program's website and materials.

SB 949 is a vital step in the right direction that encourages after-school programs to recognize their role and responsibility in championing our children's health and their future.

For these reasons, we urge your support for this important legislation.

Sincerely,