

SOUTHERN KERN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

PARENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Rosamond Elementary Westpark Elementary Tropico Middle

Southern Kern Unified School District is committed to providing safe, engaging, and enriching expanded learning opportunities that support the academic, social, and emotional development of every student.

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Welcome to the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the Southern Kern Unified School District Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P).

Our program is designed to provide students with meaningful opportunities for academic support, enrichment, physical activity, and social development outside of the traditional school day.

Through ELO-P, students participate in a variety of engaging activities that extend classroom learning while fostering creativity, curiosity, and collaboration.

Our goal is to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where every student can thrive.

We value strong partnerships with families and look forward to working together to support the success of every student.

Sincerely,

Educational Services Department

Southern Kern Unified School District

Program Philosophy

Southern Kern Unified School District believes that learning does not stop when the school day ends. The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program provides students with meaningful experiences that help them grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our program is built on the belief that students thrive when they are provided with opportunities to:

- Explore new interests
- Strengthen academic skills
- Build positive relationships
- Develop confidence and leadership
- Participate in creative and engaging activities

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program supports the **whole child** by providing a safe and welcoming environment where students can continue learning and growing beyond the classroom.

Southern Kern Unified School District is proud to offer the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) to support the academic success, enrichment, and well-being of our students beyond the regular school day.

The program provides a safe and engaging environment where students can continue learning, develop new interests, and build meaningful relationships with peers and staff.

This handbook provides important information about program expectations, procedures, and opportunities available to students and families participating in ELO-P.

California Expanded Learning Opportunities Program Requirements

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) is funded through the State of California and operates under California Education Code Section 46120.

The program is designed to provide expanded learning opportunities for students outside of the regular instructional day.

State requirements include:

- Programs must provide expanded learning opportunities beyond the school day
- After-school programs must operate until at least 6:00 PM
- Programs must provide enrichment, physical activity, and academic support
- Programs must prioritize services for Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 6 students
- Programs must provide opportunities during summer or intersession periods

Southern Kern Unified School District implements ELO-P in alignment with these state requirements to ensure students receive high-quality expanded learning opportunities.

Program Overview

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program (ELO-P) is funded through the State of California and is designed to provide additional learning opportunities for students beyond the traditional school day.

The program offers structured activities that support:

- Academic achievement
- Social and emotional development
- Physical wellness
- Creative expression
- Student engagement and leadership

ELO-P programs operate **after school, during summer, and during school intersessions**, providing students with opportunities to explore new interests while strengthening academic skills.

Schools Participating in ELO-P

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program is currently offered at the following Southern Kern Unified School District schools:

Elementary Schools

- Rosamond Elementary School (TK–5)
- Westpark Elementary School (TK–5)

Middle School

- Tropic Middle School (Grades 6–8)

The program primarily prioritizes services for **students in Transitional Kindergarten through Grade 6**, as required by California Education Code.

Program Hours

The ELO-P program provides extended learning opportunities beyond the regular school day.

After-School Program

The program begins immediately after the school day ends and operates until 6:00 PM.

Summer and Intersession Programs

Southern Kern USD also provides expanded learning opportunities during summer and designated school breaks. These programs offer full-day enrichment opportunities designed to support academic growth and student engagement.

Families will receive information about summer and intersession enrollment prior to each program session.

Daily Program Schedule

While schedules may vary by school site, a typical ELO-P schedule includes the following components:

- **Check-In & Snack Time**

Students check in with program staff and receive a healthy snack.

- **Homework and Academic Support**

Students receive assistance with homework and participate in academic enrichment activities.

- **Enrichment Activities**

Students participate in activities such as:

- ❖ Art and creative projects
- ❖ STEM learning
- ❖ Music and performing arts
- ❖ Cultural activities
- ❖ Clubs and leadership opportunities

- **Physical Activity & Recreation**

Students engage in structured physical activity or recreational play.

- **Closing Activities & Student Pick-Up**

Enrollment and Eligibility

Enrollment in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program is open to eligible students enrolled in participating Southern Kern USD schools.

Due to program capacity, priority enrollment is provided to students who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Students experiencing homelessness
- Foster youth
- Students eligible for free or reduced-price meals
- English learners

Additional students may be enrolled as space allows. Families must complete the **ELO-P enrollment application** prior to participating in the program.

Attendance Expectations

Consistent attendance is important to ensure students receive the full benefit of the program.

Students enrolled in ELO-P are expected to:

- Attend regularly
- Participate in program activities
- Follow program expectations

Parents or guardians should notify program staff if a student will be absent. Repeated absences or early pickups may affect a student's continued participation in the program.

Student Behavior Expectations

Students participating in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program are expected to follow school and district behavior expectations.

Students are expected to:

- Treat others with respect
- Follow staff directions
- Participate appropriately in activities
- Maintain a safe learning environment

Students who do not follow program expectations may receive reminders, redirection, or additional support from staff.

In cases of serious or repeated behavioral concerns, families may be contacted and disciplinary actions may be taken in accordance with district policies.

Health and Safety

The safety and well-being of students is our highest priority. Program staff are trained to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all students.

Safety procedures include:

- Student supervision at all times
- Emergency procedures and drills
- Safe dismissal procedures
- First aid response when necessary

Parents must ensure that emergency contact information is current and up to date.

Student Supervision

Southern Kern Unified School District ensures that students participating in ELO-P are supervised by trained program staff at all times.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Monitoring student safety
- Providing structured activities
- Maintaining positive learning environments
- Supporting student engagement

Student supervision ratios follow district and state program guidelines to ensure safe and effective program operation.

Student Pick-Up Procedures

Students must be picked up by an authorized adult listed on the student's emergency contact form.

For student safety:

- Identification may be required at pick-up
- Only authorized individuals may pick up students
- Students must be signed out at dismissal

Students must be picked up **no later than 6:00 PM**. Repeated late pickups may result in removal from the program.

Late Pick-Up Policy

Students participating in the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program must be picked up no later than **6:00 PM**.

Late pick-ups may create supervision and safety challenges for program staff.

If a student is picked up late:

1. Staff will attempt to contact the parent or guardian listed on the emergency contact form.
2. Authorized emergency contacts may be contacted if the parent cannot be reached.
3. Repeated late pick-ups may result in a conference with program staff.

Continued late pick-ups may result in the student being removed from the program.

Family Communication

Southern Kern Unified School District values strong communication with families. Families may receive program updates through:

- School newsletters
- Email communication
- School websites
- Parent meetings
- Flyers and announcements

Parents are encouraged to contact the program coordinator with any questions or concerns.

Summer Expanded Learning Opportunities

Southern Kern USD offers expanded learning opportunities during the summer months. Summer programs may include:

- Academic enrichment
- STEM activities
- Arts and creativity
- Outdoor recreation
- Field trips and special events

Enrollment information for summer programs will be shared with families prior to the start of the program.

Parent Partnership

Families play an important role in the success of the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program. Parents can support their student's success by:

- Encouraging regular attendance
- Staying informed about program activities
- Communicating with program staff
- Supporting positive behavior expectations

Together, we can create meaningful learning experiences for every student.

Discipline and Program Expectations

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program follows the behavior expectations established by Southern Kern Unified School District.

Students are expected to:

- Respect staff and peers
- Follow program rules
- Participate in activities safely and appropriately
- Care for school facilities and materials

If behavioral concerns arise, program staff will work with students to address the situation through guidance and support.

In cases of repeated or serious behavior concerns:

- Parents may be contacted
- A meeting with program staff may be scheduled
- Program participation may be reviewed

The goal is always to support student growth while maintaining a safe and positive program environment.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Is the ELO-P program free?

The Expanded Learning Opportunities Program is funded through the State of California and is offered to eligible students at no cost to families.

Is participation required?

Participation is voluntary. However, students who enroll are expected to attend regularly.

Can students leave early?

Early pick-ups should be limited whenever possible so students can fully participate in program activities. Parents must notify program staff if early pick-up is necessary.

What kinds of activities are offered?

Students may participate in a variety of activities, including:

- Homework assistance
- Academic enrichment
- Arts and creative activities
- STEM learning
- Physical activity and recreation
- Leadership opportunities

Activities may vary by school site.

Is transportation provided?

Transportation availability may vary by school site. Families will receive additional information if transportation services are available.

What should students bring?

Students should bring any homework or materials needed for academic support activities. All other materials for program activities will be provided.

Program Commitment

Southern Kern Unified School District is committed to providing high-quality expanded learning opportunities that support the success and well-being of every student.

Through engaging activities, academic support, and strong partnerships with families, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program helps students build skills, confidence, and connections that extend beyond the classroom.

We look forward to working with families to make the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program a meaningful and enriching experience for every student.

Contact Information

For additional information about the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, please contact:

Education Services

Phone: 661-256-5200

Website: skusd.k12.ca.us

Program staff at each school site are also available to answer questions and provide support.

Rosamond Elementary: 661-256-5050 x5008

Westpark Elementary: 661-256-5030 x3070

Tropico Middle: 661-256-5040 x4210