



September 6, 2002

The Honorable Gray Davis
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1984 (Steinberg) - After School Programs
Request For Signature**

Dear Governor Davis,

Assembly Bill 1984 (Steinberg) is an important first step towards establishing high school after-school programs in California. We urge you to sign the bill.

The California Community Technology Policy Group represents community based technology programs throughout the state that provides after school programs. Collectively we have served tens of thousands of students throughout the state with a primary emphasis on activities involving the use of technology to help with homework and to boost academic success. Through these programs, we have witnessed the positive changes in students' lives. In fact, numerous studies confirm what we already know: after school programs are a cost-effective way to improve standardized test scores, prevent juvenile violence and crime, and reduce youth drug, tobacco, and alcohol use.

Assembly Bill 1984 would allocate \$2.5 million in federal funding to establish after-school programs for high school students and fund a rigorous program evaluation. After-school programs funded under the legislation would provide academic and enrichment components that may include preparation for the high school exit exam, tutoring, college preparation, community service, mentoring, arts, computer training, career and technical training, recreation, and physical fitness. The programs would target at-risk high school students at low-performing schools.

The state's after-school program does not provide funding for high school after-school programs. Assembly Bill 1984 is a significant first step towards making high school after-school programs available for all families in need. Most importantly, establishing high school after-school programs will help improve student academic achievement and make our communities safer. We urge your approval of AB 1984.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Chabran". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Richard Chabran
Chair

Cc. The Honorable Darrel Steinberg, California State Assembly