A RAND Corporation review released in 2017 found that the Playworks is one of only seven elementary school social emotional learning programs to meet the highest criteria for evidence of impact under federal education law. RAND found that Playworks leads to five outcomes directly associated with stronger school climate and safety; we had a statistically significant impact on bullying, inclusiveness, student safety, student use of positive language, and student ownership of recess activities. This is the first comprehensive review to examine how published evidence from social emotional learning programs fits under federal education law and could qualify for federal funding. Please see our Playworks blog about RAND review.

Playworks has changed recess at Jenny Lind Elementary by introducing Rock Paper Scissors to help resolve conflicts on & off the playground.
2017-18
We launched new programs in Minnesota!

In October 2017, Playworks launched our digital strategy. Products include an online learning service and two free engagement tools to support educators and parents interested in play. These tools are essential for involving schools where we don’t have a physical presence, and to extend our professional development services in order to improve school climates for the long term and elevate the value of social emotional skills in the education system.

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Data-Driven Outcomes

Playworks has recently developed an evaluation tool, the Great Recess Framework, that has been verified by independent research as valid and reliable (published in *BMC Public Health*, 2018). We use this tool across all of our services to ensure fidelity with our model as we scale.

With Playworks we now see our students wanting to belong, be involved, and care for one another. They are starting to build confidence, leadership skills, and a better understanding of how they fit into the world around them. Empathy is one of the common social-emotional skills I see our students developing through play. The ability to recognize and support others in and outside of the classroom is equally as important as the ability to read and write. Playworks has been integral to building a stronger more united school culture for our students success.

David Wicklund, student services assistant at Pinewood Elementary MN. An interview with David on Playworks impact was published in Education Weekly March 2018.

Our new programs are helping Playworks reach our 2020 expansion goal: 50,000 kids in 110 schools experience safe and healthy play.
2017-18
HIGHLIGHTS

Minnesota Twins ensure over 13,800 kids experience wiffle ball

The Minnesota Twins over the last 2 years have increased access to baseball and softball at 24 urban elementary schools for over 13,800 elementary school students, of which 70% had never played baseball before.

Increasing Safe and Healthy Play in the Minnesota

Annual survey results from educators at our year round partner schools showed that

- 97% of staff reported more students are physically active at recess;
- 96% of staff reported more student participation in academic activities;
- 96% of staff reported that Playworks improved overall school climate;
- 90% of staff reported fewer bullying incidents during recess.

At the schools served by Playworks in Minnesota

- 78% average eligibility for free/reduced lunch
- 43% of students are African American
- 21% are Hispanic
- 13% are Asian American
- 19% are Caucasian and
- 4% are mixed race
Looking Ahead 2018-19

Growth for the Long Term

Playworks will reach more kids in 2018-19 as we focus on building the capacity of educators at our partner districts and schools to model and teach healthy play. Increasing our professional development and digital services for educators also increases earned income as Playworks’ largest source of revenue, building our financial sustainability. We continue to offer a Playworks professional on site for schools requesting a high level of direct service intervention. Our philanthropic partners are key to improving school climates for the long term.

Playworks Minnesota’s 2020 expansion goal is to ensure 50,000 kids in 110 schools experience safe and healthy play.

We are grateful for your support!

To donate or learn more, visit playworks.org