

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR (SY) FORECAST

During the 2023 - 2024 SY

Playworks Minnesota expects to impact **19,748 students** across **60 schools** and **Out of School Time Partners**.*

By redefining recess to give our youth engaging, healthy play today, we're laying the foundation for stronger, healthier communities tomorrow.

Recess Goals (Measured using the Great Recess Framework):

SAFETY



ENGAGEMENT



EMPOWERMENT



*Students demographics, 75% BIPOC, 66% Free and Reduced Lunch, 14% Special Education, 19% English Language Learners

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Transitions! Transitions! Transitions!

Did you know that nearly 90% of school discipline issues occur during recess or lunch? When these important transitions are not smooth, it affects academic focus, reduces teaching time, and impacts both the school environment and students' emotional well-being.

That's where our program team steps in, guided by Playworks' research-based best practices to finely tune these **pivotal transitions**. Using 'Recess Agreements,' we clarify behavioral expectations for students, and we also deploy engaging activities like 'The Banana Cheer.' These activities are more than fun; they're strategically designed to **help students decompress, self-regulate, and leave behind any recess conflicts, priming them for a successful re-entry into the classroom.**

By optimizing these transitions, we're doing far more than just **lowering disciplinary incidents**. We're **reclaiming essential instructional time** and setting the stage for both student achievement and well-being.

“The single greatest impact that Playworks has had is the reduction of physical and verbal altercations spilling over from recess into class time. Students are better able to focus on class work after recess.” - Educator



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

The Connection Between Lack of Outdoor Play and the Rise in Childhood Nearsightedness

Childhood nearsightedness is skyrocketing, and the major contributing factor is the decrease in outdoor play. The World Health Organization warns that by 2030, 40% of the global population will be nearsighted. In the U.S., the rate has already jumped from 25% in 1971 to 42% in 2017. The situation is even more dire in countries like China, where 80% of teens and young adults are now nearsighted. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened this trend, increasing screen time and indoor activities for children.

Recess Matters: It may be the **only guaranteed opportunity for outdoor activity for children each day**, serving as a crucial defense against rising rates of nearsightedness. Far from just fun, recess and play are fundamental to the comprehensive development of children, affecting their brains, bodies, and overall well-being while also boosting cognitive and social skills. The message is clear: recess matters now more than ever. The story behind Soaring myopia.



SCHOOL PARTNERS

Playworks Minnesota is currently implementing and supporting programming in the following schools:

Charter Schools

Ascension Catholic School
Prodeo Academy - Columbia Heights

Minneapolis Public Schools

Lucy Craft Laney Elementary
Marcy Arts Elementary
Nellie Stone Johnson Elementary

Pillsbury Elementary

North St. Paul - Maplewood - Oakdale

Carver Elementary
Castle Elementary

Cowern Elementary
Eagle Point Elementary
Justice Alan Page Elementary
Richardson Elementary
Weaver Elementary

Northeast Metro 916

Karner Blue Education Center
Pankalo Education Center

Saint Paul Public Schools

Cherokee Heights Elementary

Playworks has provided Pro service to the following schools, districts and youth organizations:

Adams Spanish Immersion Elementary

Battle Creek Elementary

Bel Air Elementary

Bellaire Education Center

Bethune Arts Elementary

Bruce Vento Elementary

CPA

Crossroads Montessori & Science

EXPO Elementary

Four Seasons

Frost Lake Elementary

Heart River Elementary

Highwood Hills Elementary

Island Lake Elementary

Maxfield Elementary

J.J. Hill Montessori

MPLS Kids

Mississippi Creative Arts Elementary

Nova Classical Academy

Pike Lake Elementary

Pinewood Elementary

Snail Lake Elementary

SoWashCo Kids Club

Sunnyside Elementary

Turtle Lake Elementary

Txuj Ci Hmong Elementary

Valentine Hills Elementary

Watertown Mayer Elementary

Wellstone Elementary

