

A 2017 RAND Corporation review found that Playworks had a statistically significant impact on five key areas that shape the daily school experience, including student safety, reduced bullying, and classroom readiness.

TIER 1 Evidence Controlled Studies



**PLAYWORKS SCHOOLS
HAVE LESS BULLYING**

43%.LESS

Teachers in Playworks schools reported significantly less bullying and exclusionary behavior during recess*, a 43% difference in average rating scores.



**STUDENTS FEEL
SAFER AT SCHOOL**

20%.HIGHER

Playworks teachers' average rating of students' feelings of safety at school was 20% higher than the average ratings reported by teachers in control schools.



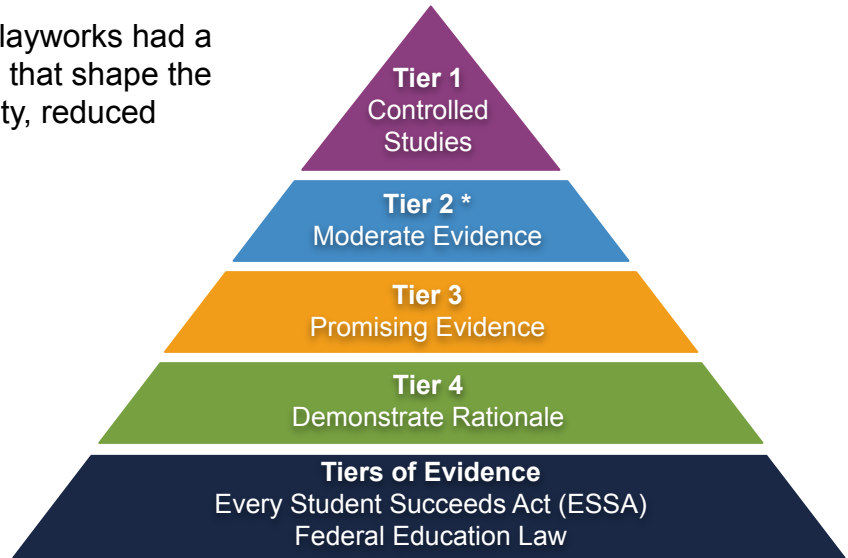
**STUDENTS ARE READY
TO LEARN**

**34%. FEWER MINUTES
to transition to learning**

Teachers in Playworks schools reported spending significantly less time to transition from recess to learning activities (34% fewer minutes).

Positive findings from a randomized controlled trial, [Mathematica Stanford University 2013](#).

*Tier 2 studies meet all criteria except threshold of 350 participants in more than 1 school district.



Measurable Difference:

- ▲ 1 Bullying
- ▲ 1 Student Ownership of Recess Activities
- ▲ 1 Safety
- ▲ 1 Inclusiveness
- ▲ 1 Positive Language

Other Studies:

- ▲ 1 Adult Engagement
- ▲ 2 Students playing outside of peer group
- ▲ 2 Conflict Resolution
- ▲ 3 Sense of Belonging

Stanford: Playworks reduces chronic absenteeism & increases attendance



An independent evaluation by Stanford University (2015) found that the Playworks led to a statistically significant increase in attendance among elementary school children. That increase was greatest among chronically absent students.

"Before we had Playworks, our chronic absence rate hovered at 12 to 15 percent. Last year, we ended at about 4 to 5 percent."
- Elementary School Principal

Leos-Urbel, J. and Sanchez, M. (2015). *The Relationship between Playworks Participation and Student Attendance in Two School Districts*. Stanford, CA: John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities. *Tier 2

Helping Students Thrive at School

Recess is a key part of the school day that reflects how students experience their environment.

Playworks creates opportunities for all students to connect, move, and have fun with peers during the school day.

Through play, students build the confidence and connection they need to thrive.

Play creates space for teamwork, problem-solving, and shared experiences that strengthen peer relationships. With thoughtful guidance and inclusive opportunities, schools can reduce conflict and create a more welcoming, active environment for every student.

How a Positive School Day Shapes Student Success:



Improves student **motivation** and **achievement**, feelings of **belonging**, and **college readiness**¹



Decreases risky behaviors and depressive symptoms, and rates of dropout and substance use²



Strengthens belonging for students with a range of learning and personal needs³



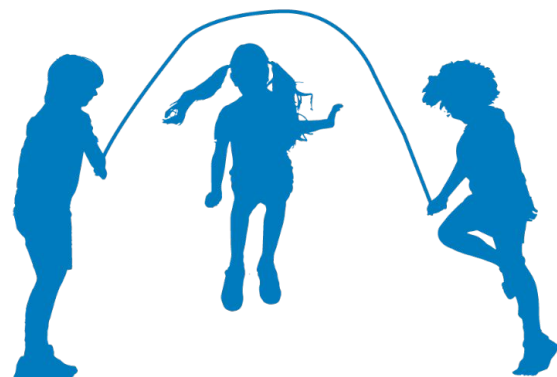
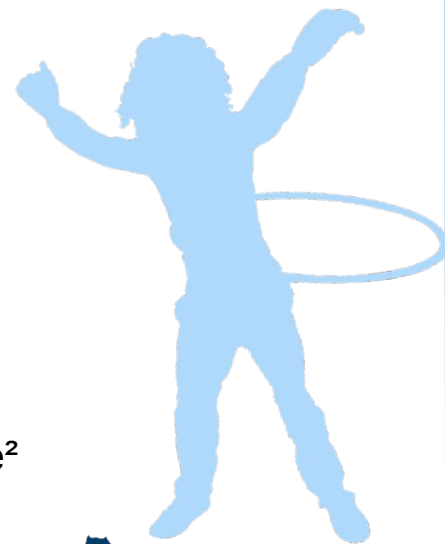
More likely to show substantial gains in reading and mathematics¹



Fewer days lost to suspensions¹



Decreased odds of dropping out²



¹ Impact of School Climate | Youth.gov (n.d.)

² School Climate Improvement | National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE). U.S. Department of Education, American Institutes for Research (AIR). (n.d.) <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/school-climate-improvement>

³ What is school climate and why is it important? | National School Climate Center (n.d.) <https://schoolclimate.org/school-climate/>