

# New England

2020-21 IMPACT REPORT



**Schools were closed. Sports were cancelled. Recess was still on schedule.**

Throughout the pandemic, Playworks has been a ready and willing partner to schools across our network, helping to redefine the role of play in the lives of students dealing with increased stress, trauma, and anxiety.

Your partnership in 2020-21 helped Playworks continue to provide critical support to school partners, district leaders, and families throughout our community.

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

**66,600**  
KIDS

**107**  
YOUTH LEADERS

**173**  
SCHOOLS

**614**  
SCHOOL STAFF TRAINED

**Playworks prioritizes serving historically marginalized communities:**

77% of students are high-needs

9% are White

51% are Hispanic

7% are Asian

30% are Black

3% are Multi-racial



## The Value of Play

Safe and healthy play is proven to strengthen student relationships with adults and peers, help students manage emotions and reduce stress, increase feelings of safety, improve academic achievement, return classroom time, and build a more positive school environment.

These outcomes are even more essential today in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**“Recess is a necessary break in the day for optimizing a child’s social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development... After ‘socially isolating’ one could argue that socializing children through regular recess should be a top priority.”**

**– American Academy of Pediatrics**



**Social-Emotional Learning**



**Physical Activity**



**School Climate**

### COVID-19 Adaptations: Innovating for Virtual Play

As the 2020-21 school year approached, Playworks created comprehensive strategic plans for each school partner that met their unique needs and challenges. Leveraging feedback, we doubled down on key impact areas: social-emotional learning and physical activity through play, student leadership, school climate, and student engagement.

Throughout the year, we met regularly with school leadership to review progress and customize based on their expressed priorities.

Program	# of Schools	# of Students
Coach	16	7,816
TeamUp	6	1,774
Pro	135	48,996
Keep Playing <i>(stand-alone)</i>	16	8,015

#### FALL 2020 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

1

IN-PERSON

2

HYBRID

19

VIRTUAL

#### SPRING 2021 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

4

IN-PERSON

18

HYBRID

0

VIRTUAL

### Navigating Virtual & Hybrid Learning



#### Community & Connection

Whether in-person or on Zoom, Class Game Time and Recess provided critical opportunities for friendship, laughter, and joy.



#### Physical Activity

Supporting mental and physical health through new and modified games that get and keep kids moving.

#### Junior Coach Leadership Conference

Over 80 Junior Coaches attended our two-day virtual conference



#### Indoor Recess Kits

With help from the Bruins, Coaches distributed 800+ indoor recess kits to Boston students



#### Keep Playing

770+ NE educators accessed weekly curated content to help them bring play to every child's day.

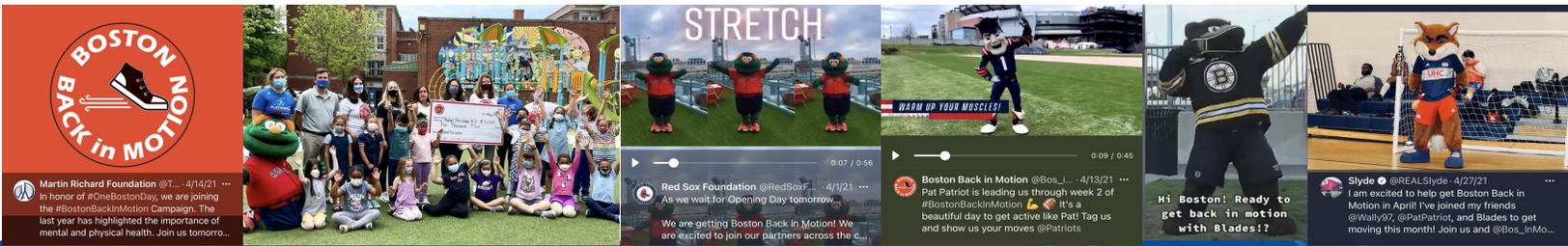


#### Safe Return to Recess

Free workshops provided a step-by-step guide to help schools plan their return to in-person learning

### Virtual & Hybrid Services that Deliver Impact

<u>% of Staff Who Reported that Playworks Helps:</u>	<u>2020-21</u>
Students demonstrate <b>empathy</b> towards one another	95%
Students <b>feel connected</b> to their learning community	96%
Students <b>get moving</b>	99%
Create <b>supportive learning environments</b>	97%
Increase students' <b>ability to focus</b>	93%
Increases the <b>level of participation</b> in academic activities	88%



### Playworks helps launch *Boston Back in Motion* to get kids moving

Recognizing that physical activity is more important than ever, a group of nonprofit partners launched Boston Back in Motion - an effort to get young people to stay active as schools transitioned back to in-person learning. The initiative provided motivation and resources to educators, after-school providers, families, and kids to help spark physical activity every day for young people.

The effort was led by The Boston Foundation through a partnership with Playworks, BOKS Kids, and BPS Moves Together as well as the Red Sox Foundation, the Boston Bruins Foundation, the New England Revolution Charitable Foundation, the New England Patriots Foundation, and The Boston Athletic Association.

**3,100**  
KIDS

**55**  
GROUPS

**30**  
DAYS OF  
CHALLENGES

**\$25,000**  
SCHOOL  
GRANTS



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## Making up for lost learning and supporting a child's emotional needs must go hand in hand.

This fall, we need to prioritize every child's wellbeing and that starts with acknowledging that many kids are healing from varied traumas caused by the pandemic, including social, emotional, and physical impacts of COVID-19. Helping them feel safe involves ensuring they feel included in the community, they have built trusting relationships, and feel comfortable being their most authentic selves. **Now more than ever, safe and healthy play can support these needs.**

## COVID-19 has proven three things:

School is more than academics

Physical and mental health are critically connected

Strong relationships matter

## Why Playworks?

Immediate intervention with proven efficacy for students and schools

Long-term solution with sustainable impact (not a band-aid approach)



### Regional Partners — \$200,000+ New Balance Foundation

### Movement Builders — \$100,000+

Blue Cross & Blue Shields of Rhode Island    Devonshire Foundation  
Massachusetts Service Alliance

John Hancock

### Game Changers — \$50,000 to \$99,999

Blue Cross Blue Shields of Massachusetts    Boston Children's Hospital  
United Way of Massachusetts Bay

The Boston Foundation

### Movement Makers — \$25,000 to \$49,999

Allstate Foundation    Baupost Group  
Fidelity Investments    Highland Street Foundation

Boston Bruins Foundation  
TJX Foundation

### Playmakers — \$10,000 to \$24,999

F.A.O. Schwarz Family Foundation

### Supporters — \$1,000 to \$9,999

Boston Public Health Commission    Cambridge Community Foundation  
Community Boating Center    Health Management Resources  
New England Patriots    Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation

Capital One  
Nellie Mae Education Foundation  
Women's Sports Foundation

*We are grateful for your support!*

To learn more about Playworks' plans for the year ahead, please contact Jessie Igoe at [Jessica.Igoe@playworks.org](mailto:Jessica.Igoe@playworks.org).