

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 (stand-alone)	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



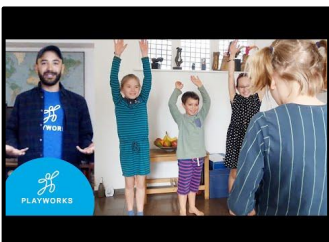
Keep Playing

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

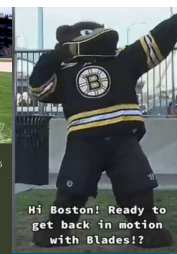
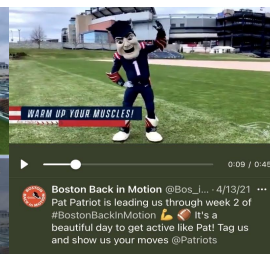
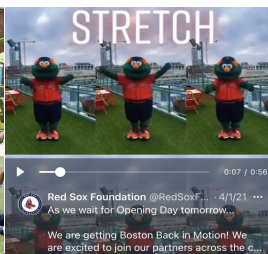


Virtual & Hybrid Services that Deliver Impact

% of Staff Who Reported that Playworks Helps:

2020-21

Students demonstrate empathy towards one another	95%
Students feel connected to their learning community	96%
Students get moving	99%
Create supportive learning environments	97%
Increase students' ability to focus	93%
Increases the level of participation 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)



John Hancock

The Boston Foundation

Boston Bruins Foundation
TJX Foundation

Capital One
Nellie Mae Education Foundation
Women's Sports Foundation

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

Movement Builders — \$100,000+

Blue Cross & Blue Shields of Rhode Island
Massachusetts Service Alliance

Devonshire Foundation

Game Changers — \$50,000 to \$99,999

Blue Cross Blue Shields of Massachusetts
United Way of Massachusetts Bay

Boston Children's Hospital

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

Allstate Foundation
Fidelity Investments

Baupost Group
Highland Street Foundation

Playmakers — \$10,000 to \$24,999

F.A.O. Schwarz Family Foundation

Supporters — \$1,000 to \$9,999

Boston Public Health Commission
Community Boating Center
New England Patriots

Cambridge Community Foundation
Health Management Resources
Ramsey McCluskey Family 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.