

# Pennsylvania

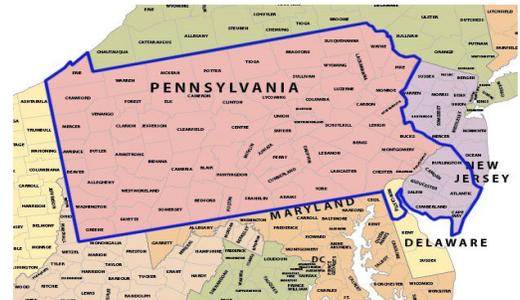
## 2016-17 IMPACT REPORT



Thank you for helping Playworks grow safe and healthy play in Pennsylvania! Playworks is pleased to present this impact report to your team, providing highlights of our work during the 2016-17 school year. We are thankful for your generosity, which has helped Playworks increase physical activity, improve the education environment, and boost the social and emotional skills of 22,000 children at 37 elementary schools throughout Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley.

This year Playworks introduced new innovations to our program and operations including:

- We expanded our geographic service area! Successful expansion into Southern New Jersey and Northern Delaware will allow us to have a greater impact on children.



- We welcomed a new Executive Director, Ivy Olesh, to our team. From Playworks supporter to Playworks parent to Playworks ED, Ivy is excited to lead the team into our next phase of growth.

### Playworks Pennsylvania Impact 2016-17



**22,000**  
KIDS

**240**  
YOUTH  
LEADERS

**37**  
SCHOOLS

**340**  
SCHOOL STAFF  
TRAINED

*“Our Sheppard School Community loves Playworks because it offers our students great cognitive, social and emotional benefits. After recess and class game time, students are able to refocus and are cognitively stimulated and ready for learning. This is evident through the increase of our reading and mathematics scores. In all grade levels, students have improved by at least 15 percentage points from last school year.*”

- Marisol Rivera Rodriguez, Principal, Isaac A. Sheppard Elementary, Philadelphia

Playworks Pennsylvania will reach 100,000 kids at over 200 schools by December 2020.

# 2016-17 OUTCOMES



## Increasing Safe and Healthy Play in Pennsylvania

Every year Playworks conducts surveys of educators at our partner schools to help us learn more about the impact of our program. As a result of the feedback we receive, Playworks updates and improves our services to better fit the needs of every school. Here are a few highlights from this year's annual survey:

- 97%** of staff reported an increase in the number of students that are **physically active**;
- 80%** of staff reported a **decrease in bullying incidents** during recess;
- 92%** of staff reported an increase in students' abilities to **focus on class activities**;
- 94%** of staff reported that Playworks helps students develop necessary skills to **succeed in the classroom and their community**.

## Research released in 2017 validates **Playworks' impact**

Playworks Coach outcomes<sup>1</sup>:



Kids on a Playworks playground are **5x more likely** to have a positive interaction with an adult.



Conflict on Playworks playgrounds **decreased by 58%** in one school year.

Playworks TeamUp outcomes<sup>2</sup>:



**Reduction** in the number of disciplinary referrals.



**Increase** in student-resolved conflict.



<sup>1</sup> Health Education Journal (2017) published research.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation issue brief (2017).

For more information, contact [info@playworks.org](mailto:info@playworks.org)

At the 20 primarily low-income schools served by Playworks in Philadelphia,

**86%** average eligibility for free/reduced lunch  
**63%** of students are African American  
**15%** are Hispanic

**9%** are Asian American  
**9%** are Caucasian and  
**5%** are mixed race.

### Playworks' Vision:

One day every child in America will have access to safe, fun, healthy play every day.

# 2016-17 HIGHLIGHTS



## Why We Play Breakfast



Playworks PA recently held our inaugural Why We Play Breakfast where we invited play stakeholders from across the region to come together for play, food, and inspiration. Our speakers included Playworks Founder and CEO, Jill Violet, and University of Pennsylvania professors Scott Barry Kaufman and Angela Duckworth who all gave their spin on *why we play*.

Panelists spoke to their own experiences and research on how much recess and other play activities promote a positive school culture and climate and affect a school's learning environment. The common theme that filled the room was that children learn how to resolve conflicts through play. It's not just what the teacher does but what the students are (or aren't) doing that is the hallmark of teaching. [Read more at bit.ly/pwrecess](http://bit.ly/pwrecess)

## MacArthur Grant

In 2017, the MacArthur Foundation chose Playworks as one of the top ten education proposals in its global competition for a \$100 million grant to solve a seemingly intractable problem. Although we did not win, Playworks is excited to partner with our donors to implement parts of our proposed plan.

***“We LOVE Playworks because it makes recess safe and super fun for our students. With the addition of Playworks, teachers have reported that -- after recess -- their students are calmer, more academically engaged, and seem more ready and willing to learn as compared to previous years.”***

- Deanda Logan, Principal,  
Cramp Elementary School,  
Philadelphia

## Playworks Pennsylvania Advisory Board 2016-17

Michael Fazzini  
Ernst & Young

Brian Greer  
Johnson & Johnson

Tony Heath  
UPS

Rick Jackson  
Accenture

Deanda Logan  
Cramp Elementary School

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Barry Wilkins  
PNC

Khoon Yen-Tay  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2017-18



In 2017-18, Playworks' focus in Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley is both to retain schools requesting and requiring our services in Philadelphia, our traditional area of service, while expanding into new localities not yet served. Specifically, we are entering into new partnerships with schools in Camden County, Bucks County, Lehigh County, Allegheny County and New Castle County.

Playworks is scaling safe, healthy play through a menu of services that support schools for the long term. A combination of direct service, professional development, and digital tools will grow children's social and emotional skills throughout Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley. All Playworks services are designed to help schools and school districts build a sustainable program for long-term change.

**Playworks Pennsylvania  
Impact 2017-18**

<b>33,000</b> KIDS	<b>312</b> YOUTH LEADERS
<b>55</b> SCHOOLS	<b>495</b> SCHOOL STAFF TRAINED

## Partnerships are key to getting us there!

### \$100,000 +

William Penn Foundation

### \$10,000 - \$99,999

Jenesis Group  
Berwind Corporation  
Independence Blue Cross Foundation

Mike & Nancy McLelland  
S. Albert Fund  
Target Foundation

The Claneil Foundation  
The Philadelphia Foundation  
Vert Charitable Trust

### \$1,000 - \$9,999

Cigna  
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation  
Drexel University  
Michael Fazzini  
Brian Greer  
Tony Heath

Henry E. Niles Foundation  
Louis N. Cassett Foundation  
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Truett & Rebecca Reed  
Seybert Foundation

Chris Tidmore  
Christopher Varano  
Barry Wilkins  
Khoon Yen-Tay  
Wexner Service Corps

### \$100 - \$999

Tommy Abel  
Noah Becker  
Veronica Blum  
Shannon Braden  
Tejal Chauhan  
Aaron Chen  
Conor Coleman  
Elizabeth Fitzsimons  
Jacob Gantz  
Bryon Golson  
Mark Seltzer  
Ellenmarie Topche

Karen Greenberg  
Kevin Greenberg  
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David Insko  
Rick Jackson  
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Mary Ann Kelly  
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Shivani Patel  
Michael Petrizzo  
Tim Rabe  
Kristin Rein  
Rachel Rempell  
Vanguard Group  
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Jacopo Samson  
James Steigerwald  
Jordan Stitzer  
Parag Vora  
Thomas Wyatt  
Steven Zelinger  
Lauren Frazer  
Daniel Corwin  
Julia Shaw

We are grateful for your support!

We believe in the power of play to bring out the best in every kid.