

Strategies for Success at Your School



In 2017, Playworks and the American Institutes for Research (AIR) partnered to learn more about what makes effective recess teams that drive the strongest quality and recess outcomes.

FINDINGS SUGGEST THAT PLAYWORKS IS MOST SUCCESSFUL WHEN ADULTS WHO FACILITATE RECESS VALUE PLAY AND SUPPORT PLAYWORKS.

1. At schools where individual Recess Team members reported highly valuing play and strong support for Playworks, aspects of recess quality were rated higher.
2. School administrators are crucial members of the Recess Team. Recess Teams that did not have an engaged administrator perceived less schoolwide support for Playworks and reported having more challenges with implementation.
3. Teachers are perceived as a missing link in effective Playworks implementation. While their buy-in may support Playworks implementation, teachers are often not included on the Recess Teams and may not know as much about the Playworks program.

Source: Brown, L., Newman, J., Baumann, E., Schwartzaupt, R., & Liu, F. (2018). *Understanding the recess team: What drives school staff in implementing Playworks?* Chicago, IL: American Institutes for Research.


PRINCIPALS CAN COMMUNICATE THE VALUE OF PLAY AND PROMOTE SUPPORT FOR PLAYWORKS:

1. Share your vision for partnering with Playworks with your staff. Emphasize how and why you value play.
2. Work with Playworks to identify school-specific recess goals.
3. Provide time for teachers and recess teams to attend an all staff training provided by Playworks.
4. Regularly observe and participate during recess.
5. Meet regularly with staff to discuss successes and areas for improvement.



About the Study

RECESS TEAM SURVEY


 698 Team members

 239 Schools

 21 Questions about:

- Value of play
- Beliefs about student learning
- Influence in school
- Self-efficacy
- Mindset
- Adult social and emotional competence
- Support for student social and emotional development
- Motivation
- Support for Playworks

RECESS TEAM FOCUS GROUPS

 31 Team members

 10 Schools

 23 Questions about:

- Recess Team composition
- Structures to support Playworks implementation
- Readiness and buy-in for Playworks model
- Successes and challenges associated with implementing the model
- Lessons learned

GREAT RECESS FRAMEWORK OBSERVATIONAL TOOL

 2 Time points (fall and spring)

 239 Schools

 17 Questions about:

- Safety and structure
- Student behaviors
- Adult engagement and supervision
- Transitions