

# ChangeLab Solutions

Opening community access to schools  
and other public properties through  
Joint Use

*Presented by*

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# ChangeLab Solutions

## THE FINE PRINT

*The information provided in this seminar is for informational purposes only, and does not constitute legal advice. Public Health Law & Policy does not enter into attorney-client relationships.*

*The primary purpose of this training is to address legal and/or policy options to improve public health. There is no intent to reflect a view on specific legislation. PHLP incorporates objective non-partisan analysis, study, and research in all our work.*

*No federal funds were used to create this presentation*



# ChangeLab Solutions

**We partner with state and local leaders to improve health in all communities, especially the underserved.**

**We do this by researching legal and policy questions, drafting policy language, and training community leaders to put these ideas to work.**







**NO LOITERING ON CAMPUS  
VIOLATORS MAY BE SUBJECT  
TO ARREST**

**FAIRMEAD SCHOOL  
BUSINESS HOURS  
7:45 AM - 4:00 PM**











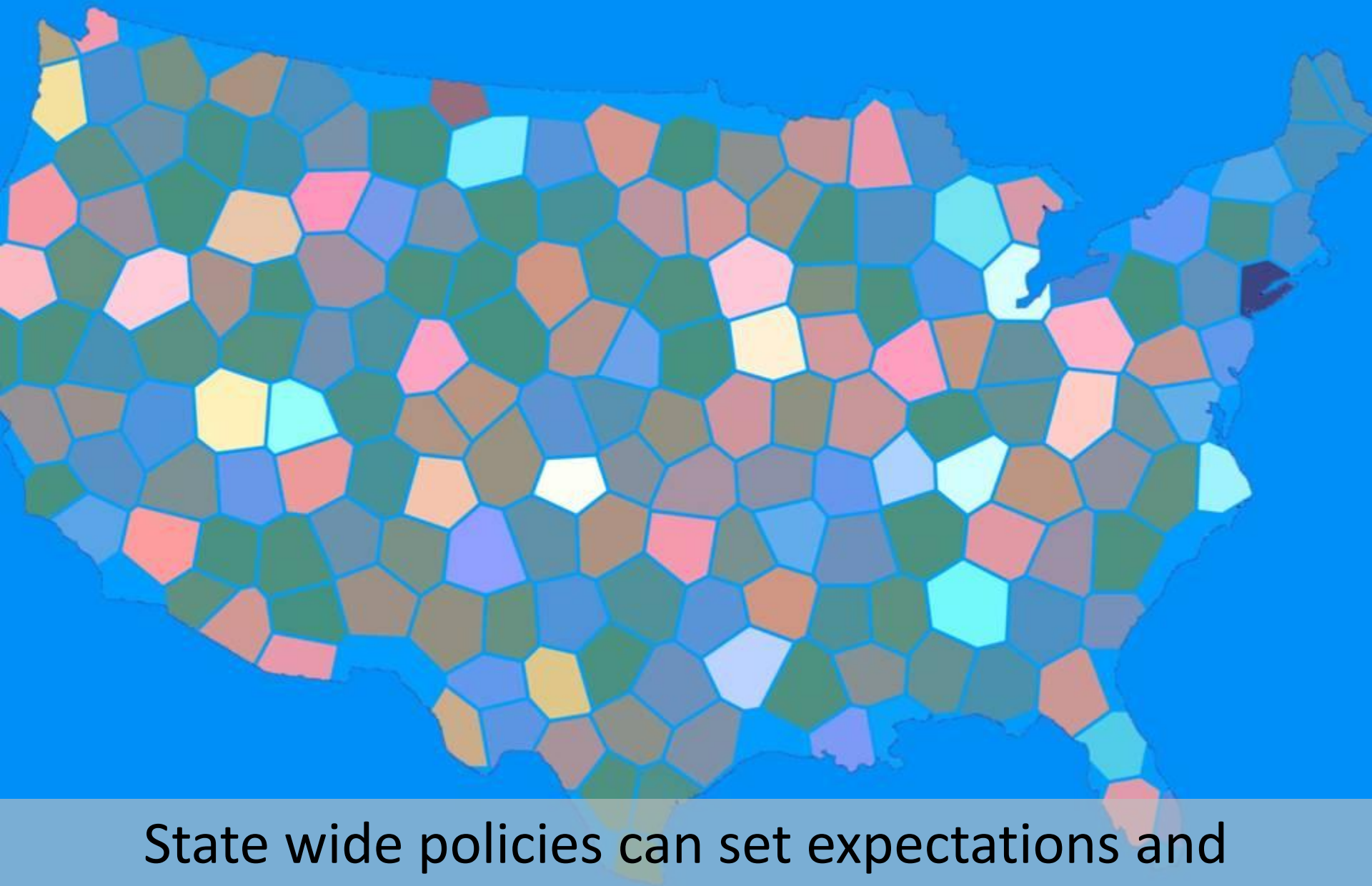
The image shows two men in silhouette shaking hands against a sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow at the bottom, where the sun is setting. The men are positioned on either side of the center, with their arms extended and hands clasped in a firm grip. The overall mood is one of agreement or partnership, though the text suggests a cautionary note.

**Hand shakes are good but aren't  
always enough**



# Formal Joint Use agreements policies are a more permanent solution





State wide policies can set expectations and provide incentives and penalties





State School Boards Associations can create model policies and facilitate joint use in individual districts.





Policies don't open school gates by themselves –  
agreements are also needed



# Unlocking the Gates

**Bellevue, Washington**

**Partners:**

**City of Bellevue Parks & Rec and Issaquah SD**

**Agreement:**

**SD provides access to Cougar Elementary School fields.**

**City provides annual field maintenance.**

**Management committee meets annually to work out any problems with agreement.**

# Indoor and Outdoor Access

**Corning, Tehama County, California**

**Partners:**

**Recreation Department, Corning Union ESD and  
Corning Union HSD**

**Facilities**

**8 ES and 3 HS → Gymnasiums, swimming pools,  
tennis courts, athletics fields**

**Activities spread out to avoid  
disproportionately heavy use on 1 facility**



# Nonprofit Partnerships for programs

**Pinellas County, Florida**

**Partners:**

**Pinellas County School Board and YMCA**

**Agreement:**

**YMCA offers before- and after-school child care, art classes, and sports clinics/leagues at numerous district school facilities.**





# **Reciprocal Access to partner facilities**

**Seattle, Washington**

**Partners:**

**City of Seattle Parks & Rec and Seattle School District No. 1**

**Facilities:**

**Athletic fields and complexes**

**Swimming pools**

**Community centers**

# Example: Cherokee Nation, OK

## Partners:

Public health departments, schools, community organizations

## Facilities:

- ✓ Recreational and non-recreational joint use relationships





# Example: Pixley & Earlimart, CA



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## Partners:

Central California Regional Obesity Prevention Program

## Facilities:

- ✓ Pixley: Playgrounds and other facilities are opened to the public and local organizations
- ✓ Earlimart: Passed agreement establishing shared recreational and park space.







**Make staff a central part of planning**

# Be aware of MOLOS and deal with them in agreement



- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Operations
- ✓ Liability
- ✓ Ownership
- ✓ Scheduling



A photograph of a narrow, overgrown path or driveway cutting through a dense forest. The path is covered in tall grass and weeds. On the left side of the path, several wooden utility poles with power lines are visible, receding into the distance. The trees are lush and green, suggesting a summer or late spring setting. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somewhat secluded.

***Think of uses for public land beyond  
the schoolyard***





Seniors might need access to school buses during the c





Community groups might need access to the school kitchen for meals programs



# *Liability – Defenses*

KENNEDY

ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL

JOHN F. KENNEDY  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL

A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

785

- *Governmental Immunity*
- *Recreational Use Statutes*
- *Exceptions can limit legal protections*



# *Find a solution where everyone wins*

## **Earlimart School District**

**Benefit** – 3 ½ acre park

**Responsibility** – park maintenance and liability.

## **Tulare County RMA**

**Benefit** – Access to site as emergency “ponding basin” in case of flooding

**Responsibility** – planning, funding and construction

## **Earlimart Community**

**Benefit** – New public park accessible to all residents

Beautification of neighborhood





## How do schools benefit?

*Joint use is shared:*

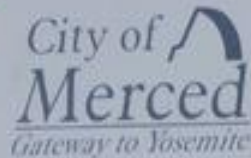
- Maintenance
- Security
- Repairs
- Improvements
- *Access to new funding*



***Joint Use can show the public the value and accessibility of our public institutions***

**TENAYA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COMMUNITY BASKETBALL COURTS**

JOINT-FUNDING BY THE  
MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
and THE CITY OF MERCED  
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



**HOURS:**  
AFTER SCHOOL - 10:00 P.M.

NO BIKES  
NO SKATEBOARDS  
NO ROLLERBLADES

OR SIMILAR DEVICES ALLOWED ON THE COURTS

**SOFA**



# ChangeLab Solutions

Thank you!

[changelabsolutions.org](http://changelabsolutions.org)

## Economic Development and Redevelopment

A toolkit for building healthy, vibrant communities

## How to Create and Implement Healthy General Plans

A toolkit for building healthy, vibrant communities

## General Plans and Zoning

A toolkit for building healthy, vibrant communities

## Joint Use of School Facilities

A toolkit for building healthy, vibrant communities

