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

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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

Tobacco Free School
Tobacco use is prohibited.
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.
Think of uses for public land beyond the schoolyard
Seniors might need access to school buses during the day.
Community groups might need access to the school kitchen for meals programs
Liability – Defenses

- 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.
Thank you!

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