

## A CORE INDICATOR OF SCHOOL CLIMATE IS RECESS

Play supports key elements of building positive school climate and peer relationships with skills such as empathy, teamwork, and cooperation. Furthermore, providing appropriate organization, training, and supervision can minimize negative experiences for youth and provide a positive alternative for physical activity and social inclusion.

### A positive school climate:



Improves student **motivation** and **achievement**, feelings of **belonging**, and **college readiness**<sup>1</sup>



Decreases risky behaviors and depressive symptoms, and rates of dropout and substance use<sup>2</sup>



Preferentially affects students from vulnerable populations at a higher rate<sup>3</sup>



### School climate affects student success:



More likely to show substantial gains in reading and mathematics<sup>1</sup>



Fewer days lost to suspensions<sup>1</sup>



Decreased odds of dropping out<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Impact of School Climate | Youth.gov (n.d.)

<sup>2</sup> School Climate Improvement | National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE). U.S. Department of Education, American Institutes for Research (AIR). (n.d.) <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/school-climate-improvement>

<sup>3</sup> What is school climate and why is it important? | National School Climate Center (n.d) <https://schoolclimate.org/school-climate/>

Teachers in Playworks schools reported significantly less bullying and exclusionary behavior during recess\*, a 43% difference in average rating scores.



Playworks teachers' average rating of students' feelings of safety at school was 20% higher than the average ratings reported by teachers in control schools.



Teachers in Playworks schools reported spending significantly less time to transition from recess to learning activities (34% fewer minutes).



**Stanford: Playworks reduces chronic absenteeism and increases attendance**



*“Before we had Playworks, our chronic absence rate hovered at 12 to 15 percent. Last year, we ended at about 4 to 5 percent.”*

*- Elementary School Principal*