

School Facility Joint Use Support

FACTSHEET

Status:

- Currently, many schools do not allow their physical plants (indoor or outdoor) to be used by the public or by community members; however, these resources could provide an accessible and safe environment for community and family physical activity.
- Key reasons offered by school officials to not allow access to the public are concerns of liability, security and increased maintenance costs.
- A national study conducted in 2006 with 20,645 adolescents found communities with seven (7) recreational facilities located within a five-mile radius had 32% fewer overweight teens than did communities with no facilities.

Program:

Communities should create and improve access to places for physical activity. Joint use agreements are one mechanism to accomplish this goal.

Impact:

- Increase engagement in regular physical activity by adults; currently, 1 in 3 are not physically active: whites, 27%; blacks, 36%; Latinos, 38%.
- Increase engagement in regular daily activity by adults; currently, less than 0.5 are active: whites, 46%; blacks, 43%; Latinos, 40%.
- Improve the level of physical activity for Arkansans, while decreasing calories consumed.

How it Works:

- Several options exist to encourage or require joint use agreements (JUAs) for public school properties.
 1. Awareness raising and provision of information, technical assistance, and model contracts and agreements, with elective participation by schools and communities.
 2. Legislative and/or executive branch support to encourage voluntary establishment of JUAs.
 3. Legislative and/or executive branch support with statutory language describing JUA parameters.
 4. Legislatively required establishment of JUAs by schools and communities.

Administration/Oversight: Funds will be appropriated to the Arkansas Department of Education, Division of Fiscal and Administrative Services. The Division will receive requests for support from Arkansas school district superintendents for development, implementation and operation of JUAs in Arkansas.



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