

Shared Use in the Summer: Schools & Community Health

Why more communities are opening school spaces to the public when classes are out

Create spaces for community and civic engagement: community meetings, gardens, polling stations, summer harvest events, cultural groups, festivals and markets, and more

SCHOOL

PRESENT I PLAY
PAST I PLAYED
FUTURE I WILL PLAY

Healthy Meals
on a Budget

Foster local knowledge, skills, and economic growth: job training and certification programs, continuing education classes, garden and kitchen space* for use by local food growers or nutrition/cooking classes, work spaces for small businesses or nonprofits, and more

Provide physical activity opportunities for people of all ages and abilities: organized sports, exercise classes, meet-up groups, open playgrounds, summer gardening clubs, and more

HEALTH

- Physical activity can reduce chronic disease and improve physical and mental health.
- Social connectedness can alleviate stress and strengthen communities.
- Gardening can increase fruit and vegetable consumption and provide physical activity, social connection, and stress relief.

EQUITY

- Schools can provide safe, convenient places for physical activity in neighborhoods with few parks.
- Community activities can help decrease stress and loneliness, which are becoming increasingly common among residents of high-poverty areas.
- Shared use can provide opportunities for summer, after-school, and continuing education programs for all, regardless of socioeconomic status.

*Additional requirements may apply to kitchen use. As with all shared use agreements or policies, a local attorney can help address concerns about legal requirements, maintenance, and liability.