

JOINT USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has secured a Communities Putting Prevention to Work obesity prevention grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to implement policy and environmental change strategies that will increase physical activity and prevent obesity. Two CDPH programs, California Project LEAN (Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition) and Safe and Active Communities, are working together to implement this grant and to advance state and local joint use policies that will increase student and community access to school facilities for physical activity and recreation outside of the school day. The joint use grant runs from 2010–2012 and will include both statewide and local policy efforts.

Why Support Joint Use of School Facilities?

Many communities across California lack safe, well-maintained, and accessible places for community members to be physically active. Access to no- or low-cost public spaces for physical activity plays a critical role in the prevention and treatment of obesity and overweight. Schools often provide the only space for recreation and physical activity for students, families, and the community, yet school gates are often locked during non-school hours. Joint use policies and practices can mean schools opening their gates during non-school hours for community use and/or schools engaging in formal joint use agreements with a governmental agency or non-profit organization to share use of recreational facilities before, during, and/or after the school day. Sharing school facilities optimizes resources and promotes opportunities for physical activity for both students and the greater community.

Grant Activities:

- CDPH will work toward the adoption and implementation of a state joint use policy to reduce at least one major barrier to community after-hours use of school physical activity facilities. This effort will focus on expanding and increasing the flexibility of state joint use funding requirements.
- CDPH is providing \$20,000 mini-grants to the following five organizations to establish school district joint use policies and practices:
 - Earlimart School District
 - Fresno Metro Ministries (Partner: Fresno Unified School District)
 - St. Mary Hospital Foundation (Partner: Adelanto School District)
 - Redwood City 2020 (Partner: Redwood City School District)
 - San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and their Families (Partner: San Francisco Unified School District)

For more information about CDPH's joint use efforts, please contact:

Joanne Gooley, MA, RD
Physical Activity Specialist
California Project LEAN
California Department of Public Health
joanne.gooley@cdph.ca.gov
(916) 449-5294
(916) 552-9909 fax



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