



TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Linus J. Guillory Jr., PhD, Chief Schools Officer

DATE: September 27, 2019

RE: *Playworks*

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Playworks is a nonprofit organization that believes in the power of play to bring out the best in every child. Playworks helps schools, districts, youth programs, and other organizations make the most of recess through on-site staffing, consultative support, and professional development.

Playworks worked with two LPS schools last spring in a one week trial: Pawtucketville and the Morey. This year, Playworks has secured philanthropic funding to offer four schools the opportunity to engage in this program as a one-year pilot. Selected schools are: the Moody, Pawtucketville, the STEM, and the Robinson.

An experienced site coordinator works with recess teams, one week per month. During the week, the site coordinator models and demonstrates best practices and provides ongoing training and consultation for the recess team. In addition, the site coordinator provides trainings for teachers and administrators, setting shared values and expectations for student behavior across all staff.

The site coordinator and recess team focus on three key programmatic areas:

1. Recess - The site coordinator and recess team develop standard agreements for behavior and conflict resolution skills, teach kids the rules and strategies of the games, and recruit disengaged students to participate.
2. Junior Coach Program - The site coordinator and recess team will implement a Junior Coach program to establish student leadership within the school and to build student ownership of key recess responsibilities. In collaboration with teachers, students from 4th and 5th grades are chosen to serve as role models on the playground. Trainings for Junior Coaches are held regularly.
3. Class Game Time - The site coordinator leads instructional time with individual classes throughout the year. During this time the coach teaches foundational skills and activities that will prepare students to enjoy recess and increase engagement.