

Joint/Shared-Use Agreements between Cities and School Districts



City of Paramount and Paramount Unified School District

Why Joint/Shared-Use Agreements

Joint/Shared-use brings together two entities to expand access to an indoor and/or outdoor space for community use. School campuses are often the ideal partner, providing an abundant amount of outdoor space for neighborhood recreational opportunities, especially in densely populated neighborhoods, or neighborhoods without convenient access to green space. By increasing the public's access to more green space, physical activity levels can increase, thereby reducing the growing epidemic of obesity and health disparities across Los Angeles due to a lack of access to space.

Demographics

18 School Campuses for Grades K-12
92.0% Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunches

88% Hispanic/Latino
8.1% African American
3.9% All Other Races

29% of 5th graders need BMI improvement
25.6% of 7th graders need BMI improvement
24.2% of 9th graders need BMI improvement
--This percentage of students are at health risk

*Data provided by the Paramount Unified School District (15/16) and the California Department of Education

Contact

For further information, contact JUMPP at JUMPP@ph.lacounty.gov or the Paramount Unified School District at (562) 602-6000.

Shared Use in Action

In 2010, Paramount City entered into a five-year Joint/Shared-Use Agreement with Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) and renewed the agreement on December 1, 2015. Paramount High School West Campus was the first to allow public access to its campus with 6 others sites following shortly after. With the renewal of the agreement, three more entities have joined (Salud Park, Leona Jackson School, and Hollydale Elementary), allowing the community more access to physical activity resources they did not previously have.

"[This] partnership ...formed a team, crossing over traditional lines to lend support in groundbreaking ways... [allowing] for creative solutions and quick action to issues ...Examples include the shared use of land and facilities, city staff teaching certain programs on district campuses, and a city program that provides college scholarships to district students. The key is open and regular communication."

--David Johnson, City of Paramount
Community Services & Recreation

Benefits

With the Joint/Shared-Use Agreement, community members are able to maximize the use of public facilities. School playgrounds are used as neighborhood parks during after-school hours, which also allows community organizations a place to convene. PUSD and the City of Pasadena have already co-funded two joint-use gymnasiums located in park-deficit areas and provided after-school activities for children and teens.

Challenges and Solutions

When entering joint/shared-use agreements, barriers such as liabilities and maintenance costs exist. However, with a properly written agreement, the city and district's roles and responsibilities are clearly defined.