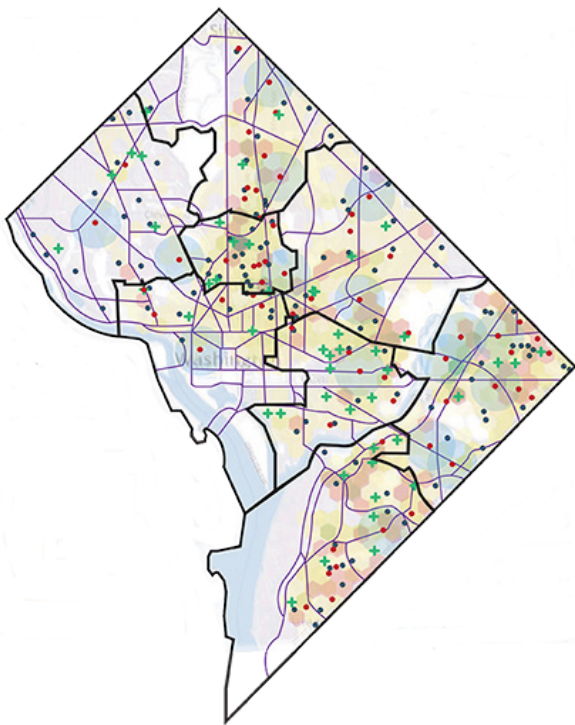


# Shared Use Gives the Community an Extra Boost: Support DC Legislation Today!

Children are easily influenced by their environment and experiences they have. Building healthy habits is especially productive with children and teens because they are still developing their values and beliefs. We want children to experience the fun and health benefits that physical activity can add to their lives. However, incorporating physical activity that is both safe and fun is a challenge when there is a lack of locations available in the community. Attaining equitable access to safe, clean places to play is key to improving health for the District's youth.



## Physical Activity Deserts

This is an urban area in which it is difficult to find a safe, affordable place to engage in physical activity. Some children in DC walk over a half a mile through high-crime neighborhoods across busy streets to find safe places to play. This is discouraging to a family that wants to be active, but lacks a supportive environment.

These physical activity deserts are found mostly in wards 4, 5, 7, and 8 in the District. These are the same wards where chronic diseases, such as heart disease and hypertension are common.

## About the New Bills

### **B22-39: Community Use of School Facilities Task Force Establishment Act of 2017**

This bill requires that DGS initiates a task force to identify barriers to and develop recommendations for community use of public school facilities. The task force will submit those recommendations to the Council.

### **B22-502: The Field Access Equity Amendment Act of 2017**

This bill amends the 1997 Budget Support Act of 1996 to allow the Mayor to grant hardship-based fee waivers for athletic field permit fees to non-profit athletic leagues with a membership of at least 65% District residents.

### **B22-613: Ensuring Community Access to Recreational Spaces Act of 2017**

This bill requires DGS to return 75% of permit fees received for the use of a school's facilities and grounds to schools to pay for maintenance and repair. Further, this bill allows required an online application platform.w



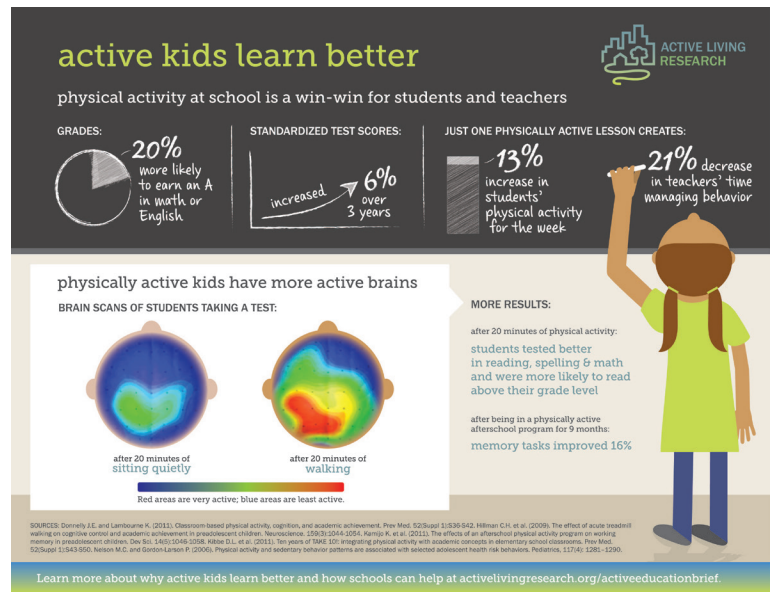
## Check Out the Latest Report

A [recent report](#) compiled recommendations from groups that utilize shared use agreements and DC agencies to try and fix many of the issues with the DC shared use process. This report was the basis for many of the proposals in the bills listed above.

## Now Hear This

Physical activity promotes scholastic performance, healthy weight, and self-esteem beneficial to all children. Keeping fit when young also lowers the chances of getting heart disease as an adult.

Schools might be more willing to open their facilities for shared use outside of school hours if the DC Department of General Services (DGS) returned some of the school rental fees back to principals to help purchase supplies and equipment or repair play areas that allow opportunities for physical activity.



Opening neighborhood schools for physical activity when school is out can help our kids' stay healthy. In neighborhoods with higher rates of obesity, one third of schools open their recreational facilities to the community. In healthier parts of the city, two thirds of schools open their grounds to the community. Are you starting to see the connection?

Without school shared use agreements children often do not have safe places, close to home to be physically active to prevent chronic disease, such as heart disease. Let's remove barriers to allow schools to engage in shared use agreements.

## We have good news! You can help.

Contact your member of the [DC council](#) or [school representative](#) today about supporting the shared use legislation. Let them know how important open school play areas are to the health and school performance of children and adults in their neighborhood. Together, we can open more schools for physical activity in all neighborhoods throughout DC.



Active Kids,  
Healthy Community  
[DCActiveKids.org](http://DCActiveKids.org)