



**urban  
initiatives**

# RECESS PROGRAM

Urban Initiatives' (UI) Recess Program enhances and enriches the value of recess as a vital break from the demands of the academic day. By taking a healing-centered approach, highly-trained UI Recess Coaches provide opportunities for improved physical activity, community building, and social emotional learning development through active play. They maximize impact by implementing active, safe, restorative, and fun recess every day!



## THE BASICS

- 6 hours of staffed support by Recess Coach
- 20 min of structured recess activities per grade, daily
- Additional duties during non-recess hours (e.g., lead classroom energizers, provide front office support, join school committees, etc.)
  - 1 PD session for all school-based recess support staff



## SCHOOL PROVIDES

- Designated, conducive space for both outdoor and indoor recess activities
- Additional staff presence at recess to
- support student safety and program quality
- Admin point person of contact for UI staff



## UI PROVIDES

- School-based Recess Coach
- Training for coach & additional recess staff
- grounded in principles from the Weikert Center for Youth Program Quality
- Accessible management to support program quality with bi-weekly in-person presence



## OUR PHILOSOPHY

*Recess and play are often seen as privileges, easily revoked when students misbehave. We believe play is a right and, when used effectively, can be central to restorative practices that enhance school culture and help youth thrive. With support from key staff, we create coalitions that offer essential play-based learning, benefiting the entire school day.*



## COST \$37,000 ANNUALLY

**WANT MORE INFO?**

**[Schoolpartnerships@urbaninitiatives.org](mailto:Schoolpartnerships@urbaninitiatives.org)**



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# RECESS MANAGEMENT

In a challenging funding environment, Urban Initiatives' Recess Management Program offers a cost-effective way to enhance schools' capacity for structured play and restorative practices during recess. With ongoing training, comprehensive resources, and hands-on support, UI helps schools maximize recess as a crucial break and a key opportunity for SEL development through active play.



## THE BASICS

- School-employed Recess Lead institutes structured recess activities with healing-centered practices for all grade levels
- Series of 4 trainings for all recess support staff
- Supportive UI management
  - Bi-weekly check-ins with Recess Lead
  - Bi-weekly on-site visits and recess observation
  - On-call support and coaching



## SCHOOL PROVIDES

- One coach from school community
- Outdoor field with access to indoor gym in the event of inclement weather
- Access to indoor space for restrooms & drinking water
- Storage space for equipment
- On-site supervisor to serve as real-time point person for Program Manager



## UI PROVIDES

- Curriculum, resources, and weekly management support for Recess Lead
- Training series for full recess support
- team grounded in principles from the Weikert Center for Youth Program Quality
- Accessible management to support program implementation quality
- Equipment budget



## OUR PHILOSOPHY

*Recess and play are often seen as privileges, easily revoked when students misbehave. We believe play is a right and, when used effectively, can be central to restorative practices that enhance school culture and help youth thrive. With support from key staff, we create coalitions that offer essential play-based learning, benefiting the entire school day.*



## COST \$12,000 ANNUALLY

**WANT MORE INFO?**

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