

Physical Environment Subcommittee Goals and Activities

Goal #3 Increase Use of Schoolyards to Promote Student Wellness

Activities:

- 3.1 Play Areas Supportive of Physical Activity and Development
- 3.2 Schoolyard That Connect Students to The Natural Environment
- 3.3 Schoolyards for Instruction
- 3.4 Schoolyards for Mental Wellness
- 3.5 Schoolyard Gardens for Food Production and Instruction
- 3.6 Maintenance of Schoolyards to Promote Student Wellness



GOAL #3 – Increase Use of Schoolyards To Promote Student Wellness			
Activity 3.1 – Play areas supportive of physical activity and development		In place by	Responsibility
			Facilities/PhyEd
Steps	Expected Outcomes	Monitoring	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review design and layout of playgrounds for schools to ensure elements to support physical activity and development. 2. Make recommendations/confirm design elements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifications and design element component awareness • Inventory of school playground needs • Design recommendations to schools/PTAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify specification and monitoring of playgrounds • Review design recommendations • Expanded opportunities for elements that have ‘natural’ features 	
Activity 3.2 – Schoolyard that connect students to the natural environment		In place by	Responsibility
			Facilities/Env.Lit
Steps	Expected Outcomes	Monitoring	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify elements of the natural environment conducive to schoolyards. 2. Work with facilities/schools to identify sites in AACPS 3. Support schools to utilize natural areas 4. Promote the use of natural areas to principals/teachers/students/community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List criteria and specifications of potential natural areas • Identify schools/sites that can easily be made accessible for students • Develop strategies for use and access of areas for individual schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate natural areas at schools • Tree planting designated site at each elementary 	
Activity 3.3 – Schoolyards for instruction		In place by	Responsibility
		Ongoing	Env. Lit/ C&I/Facilities
Steps	Expected Outcomes	Monitoring	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify schoolyard elements to promote the use of the outdoors for instruction 2. Work with Curriculum and Instruction to identify elements for instruction 3. Work with Facilities/schools for construction recommendations 4. Promote the use of outdoor learning areas to principals/teachers/students/community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create document to list criteria and specifications of outdoor learning area elements • Conduct professional development to promote use of outdoor learning areas for instruction • Develop examples of outdoor learning area designs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor Classroom Design Guidelines available on intranet • Verify specification and monitoring of use • Attendance of teacher PDs for use of outdoor learning areas • Review design recommendations • Development of outdoor classrooms 	



Activity 3.4 – Schoolyards for mental wellness		In place by	Responsibility
		Ongoing	Env. Lit/Facilities
Steps	Expected Outcomes	Monitoring	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify outdoor elements that would provide opportunities for mental wellness 2. Work with facilities/schools for construction/design recommendations 3. Support schools to utilize natural areas 4. Promote the use of wellness areas to principals/teachers/students/community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List elements and specifications of potential natural areas, create guide • Conduct professional development for School Counselors to promote use of outdoor spaces for counseling • Develop strategies for use and access of areas for individual schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify specification and monitoring of use • Attendance of professional development • Review design recommendations. • ESSER funds to support the development of outdoor spaces & PD 	
Activity 3.5 – Schoolyards gardens for food production and instruction		In place by	Responsibility
		Ongoing	Env. Lit/ Facilities/ Food and Nutrition
Steps	Expected Outcomes	Monitoring	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate with Environmental Literacy, Ag Education, Sustainability, Food and Nutrition Services to promote the creation and use of Schoolyard Gardens 2. Determine Curriculum and Instruction connections 3. Establish guidelines and recommendations for the creation and use of gardens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create guide to list elements and specifications of garden elements • Design professional development to promote use of garden areas for instruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify specification and monitoring of use • Review design recommendations 	
Activity 3.6 – Maintenance of schoolyards to promote student wellness		In place by	Responsibility
		Ongoing	Env. Lit/ Facilities/ Food and Nutrition
Steps	Expected Outcomes	Monitoring	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine strategies for upkeep and maintenance of schoolyards for instruction and use 2. Seek potential increased staffing for schoolyards maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop guidelines and MOU with schools for maintenance of outdoor spaces • Increase awareness of need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor schoolgrounds for compliance • Increased funding 	

