



## **New Frontiers in Shared Use**



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# ChangeLab Solutions

**ChangeLab Solutions creates innovative law and policy solutions that transform neighborhoods, cities, and states. We do this because achieving the common good means everyone has safe places to live and be active, nourishing food, and more opportunities to ensure health. Our unique approach, backed by decades of solid research and proven results, helps the public and private sectors make communities more livable, especially for those who are at highest risk because they have the fewest resources.**



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# Shared Use 1.0: Schools



[www.nplanonline.org](http://www.nplanonline.org)



## What Is a Joint Use Agreement? A Fact Sheet for Parents, Students, and Community Members

Many communities lack safe, adequate places for children and their families to exercise and play. Schools might have a variety of recreational facilities—gymnasiums, playgrounds, fields, courts, tracks—but many districts close their property to the public after school hours because of concerns about costs, vandalism, security, maintenance, and liability in the event of injury.

Most states currently have laws that encourage or even require schools to open their facilities to the community for recreation or other civic uses.<sup>1</sup> Nonetheless, school officials may be reluctant to do so, cautious about the expense in times of increasingly tight budgets.

The good news is that city, county, and town governments can work with school districts through what are known as joint use agreements to address these concerns.

*A joint use agreement is a formal agreement between two separate government entities—often a school district and a city or county—setting forth the terms and conditions for the shared use of public property or facilities.*

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Ca... ssion

# SHARED USE 1.0: Schools

- Partnership: school district and city/county
- School facilities
- Recreation
- Signed contract



# SHARED USE 2.0: Unlocking New Opportunities



# OPEN USE

Occurs when...

- **government entities or non-profit organizations**
- **open or broaden access**
- **without a formal partnership or agreement**



# SCHOOL DISTRICT OPEN USE POLICY

Option for districts:

- that do **not want / need / have** a partner
- will **accept** potential liability

**Compliment** to formal agreements



Hamilton County (TN) Board of Education



# COMMON CONSIDERATIONS



## Model Open Use Policy for Wisconsin School Districts



# SHARED USE BY FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Trusted in the community
- Connects with emphasis on health and wellness
- From health of congregation to health of community



# Congregation to Community

Shared Use by North Carolina Faith-Based Organizations



Communities across the country are seeking safe, accessible, and affordable places for children and their families to exercise and play.



Community & Clinical  
Connections  
for Prevention & Health  
Branch

<http://changelabsolutions.org/open-use>

# THANK YOU!

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