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Subject: schools: Legal Tools to Help Create Joint Use Agreements available on-line from NPLAN

School facilities can provide many amenities to the public, but making them available can be a challenge for school administrators. Here's a resource that can help.

The National Policy & Legal Analysis Network to Prevent Childhood Obesity (NPLAN) has prepared legal tools including a state-by-state listing of laws governing joint use agreements and model agreements for a variety of situations.

Here's the link to their website - <http://nplanonline.org> - "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. 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 partner 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."

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<http://nplanonline.org>

The link below provides specific references relating to school facilities and the part they can play in dealing with childhood obesity:

http://nplanonline.org/product_search/%2A/21?page=1