

STATUS OF OPEN COMMUNITY USE IN SOUTH CAROLINA 2017

Improving Access for Physical Activity

In South Carolina 80.3% of adults did not meet the recommended physical activity guidelines in 2015. To build a culture of health, South Carolinians need access to safe, convenient, and free places for physical activity. Open community use, allowing free community access to schools' outdoor recreational facilities during non-school hours, is an effective and affordable strategy to combat obesity and increase physical activity.

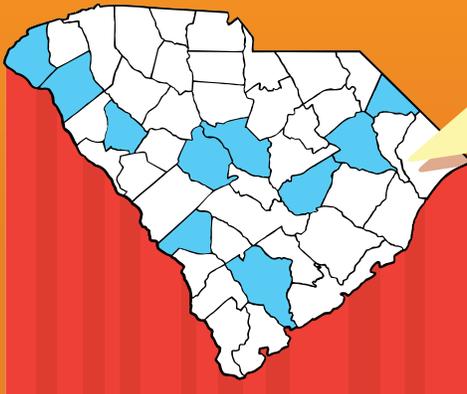
Benefits of Open Community Use

1. Increased access to safe, convenient, and free places for physical activity
2. Strengthened engagement between schools and communities
3. Maximized use of existing outdoor recreational facilities

2017 Open Community Use Policy Snapshot

Open Community Use provides "A safe and familiar place to provide recreational space for the community and promotes positive home, school, and community relations through healthy living opportunities."

–Rodney Zimmerman, William J. Clark Middle (Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five)



The following **13** school districts have adopted the SC School Boards Association's model Open Community Use of School Recreational Areas policy (KFA):

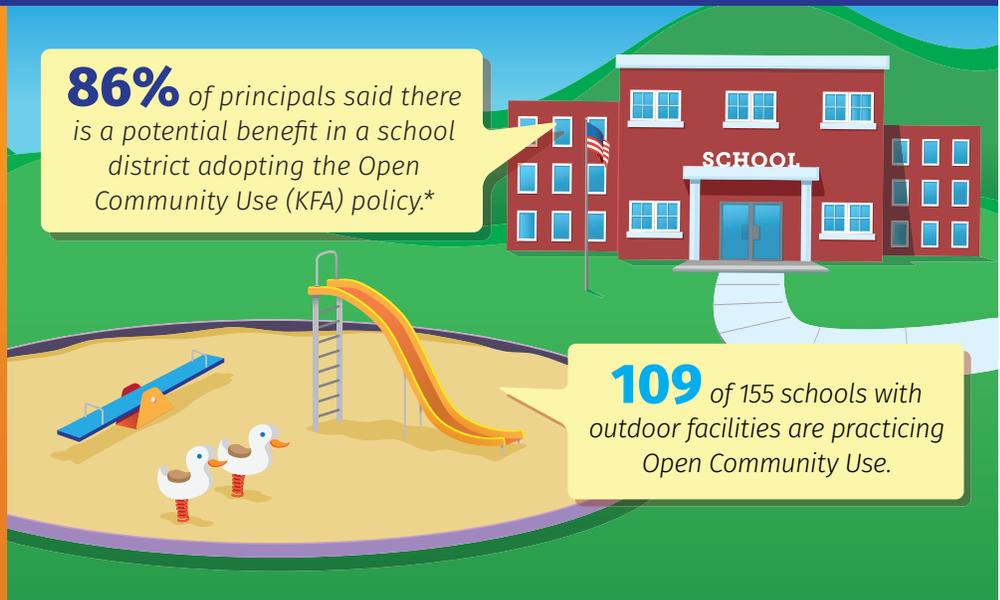
- Anderson 03
- Barnwell 19
- Clarendon 01
- Colleton 01
- Dillon 03
- Dillon 04
- Florence 01
- Florence 02
- Florence 04
- Greenwood 52
- Lexington 04
- Oconee 01
- Richland 02

2017 Open Community Use School Survey Brief

A survey was disseminated to 313 school principals in 30 school districts across South Carolina in 2017 to assess the awareness, practice, and promotion of Open Community Use.

Of the schools surveyed, 174 principals responded (55%).

86% of principals said there is a potential benefit in a school district adopting the Open Community Use (KFA) policy.*



109 of 155 schools with outdoor facilities are practicing Open Community Use.

*Percent based on 139 responses to this survey question.

Visit SCDHEC.gov to access the playbook, *Breaking Physical Activity Barriers Through Open Community Use*, for information on how to adopt, practice, and promote the open community use policy. <www.scdhec.gov/library/CR-011555.pdf>.

Visit *Let's Go! SC* for information on schools that allow free community access to their outdoor recreational facilities during non-school hours. <www.letsgosc.org>.