

## Indiana Department of Education

### School Improvement Summit

March 10, 2020

#### School Improvement Technical Assistance Partner Profile

##### *Guidelines for completing the profile*

*In no more than two pages, please describe your organization, its accomplishments, and how it can help improve educational outcomes for students in low-performing schools across Indiana.*

*Please limit the content in your profile to the information requested below. Any additional content in the profile will not be shared with district and school leaders.*

##### Background

- Organization name
  - Playworks
- Organization address
  - 9511 Angola Court Indianapolis, IN 46268
- Organization contact person, contact email, and phone number
  - Audrey Hallmann [audrey.hallmann@playworks.org](mailto:audrey.hallmann@playworks.org) 317.961.1526
  - Jo Yocum [jo.yocum@playworks.org](mailto:jo.yocum@playworks.org) 317.961.1526 (attending summit)
  - Traneisha English [traneisha.english@playworks.org](mailto:traneisha.english@playworks.org) 317.961.1526 (attending summit)
- Organization mission
  - Playworks mission is to improve the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play.

Please identify the area(s) that your organization supports:

- **Effective Leaders**
- **Ambitious Instruction**
- **Collaborative Teachers**
- **Supportive Environment**
- Involved Families

##### Approach

- Describe your organization's school improvement services
  - Playworks offers a continuum of evidence-based services that includes high level intervention with direct service partnerships (Full Time Coach), consultative service partnerships (TeamUp and Consultative Visits), expert training and professional development (Playworks Pro), and access to online learning (PlayworksU) and resource options (RecessLab).
- Describe how your organization differentiates its services to meet the unique needs of districts and schools

- Playworks provides a variety of service models designed to suit the individual needs of schools and districts. Playworks is equipped to work strategically at the district level, scaling our program to impact a greater number of buildings and therefore impacting more students. Playworks also works frequently with individual schools and smaller charter organizations. Playworks offers a continuum of services that includes high level intervention with direct service partnerships, consultative service partnerships, expert training and professional development, and access to online learning and resource options. Our continuum of available services ensures that even those schools who need the most intensive intervention can work their way towards a path to self-sufficiency. With the exception of online learning, all Playworks services include on-site components. Playworks services are designed for Pk-8 students and educators.
- Describe the attributes of your organization’s ideal partner district and/or school
  - Playworks believes that strong school partnerships are a crucial factor in strong outcomes for students. Playworks seeks districts and schools that ready to consider recess and play as powerful levers for positive outcomes. Ideal partners are engaged in the process of goal setting, measuring progress and making adjustments as needed. An ideal partner is invested in engaging teachers and school staff in the partnership, ultimately leading to greater program sustainability and long term success.

### Impact

- Describe your organization’s track record of dramatically improving schools or systems and/or radically increasing outcomes for targeted subgroups of students
  - Playworks was founded in 1996 and launched operations in Indiana in 2013. Nationally, Playworks is positioned to impact 1,250,000 students at 2,500 schools with safe and healthy play. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation invested over \$32 million in Playworks during our 2005-15 expansion period because it believes our programming positively impacts children’s health. We are the leading organization in Indiana and nationally to leverage play to promote healthy behaviors and increase social and emotional learning, at recess and throughout the school day. Playworks is unique in that we ensure play is accessible to every kid regardless of economic background, physical ability, or academic achievement. We know of no other organization in Indiana working to both improve recess and develop social and emotional skills through play; therefore, we are filling this gap. The Indiana 2018-19 Annual Survey shows that 95% of 438 respondents reported increased student engagement in academics as a result of Playworks partnership. 95% of respondents also believe that Playworks provides opportunities for inclusion of diverse groups of students.

During the 2019-20 school year, Playworks will ensure that students at over 90 Indiana elementary schools and youth organizations experience safe and healthy play every day. In Indiana, we are currently serving 21 schools in direct service models (Full Time Coach / TeamUp) representing 10,659 students according to IDOE. Of these students, 71% qualify for free or reduced lunch and 42% are African American, 25% are Hispanic, 25% are Caucasian, 7% are Multiracial and 1% are Asian, Pacific Islander or American Indian.

Those schools not served through direct service models are also providing feedback of positive effects. Of the 209 respondents surveyed following two or more days of professional development services this year, 90% agreed that the action plan created would be 'easy to implement' and 100% agreed that implementing Playworks strategies would bring about positive change.