

Playworks, recognized as a Tier 1 evidence-based intervention under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), has a statistically significant impact on key school climate indicators such as reducing bullying, improving safety, and increasing students' readiness to learn. These improvements in school climate are directly linked to better attendance outcomes, particularly among chronically absent students.

## TIER 1 Evidence Controlled Studies



**PLAYWORKS SCHOOLS  
HAVE LESS BULLYING**

**43% LESS**

*Teachers in Playworks schools reported significantly less bullying and exclusionary behavior during recess\*, a 43% difference in average rating scores.*

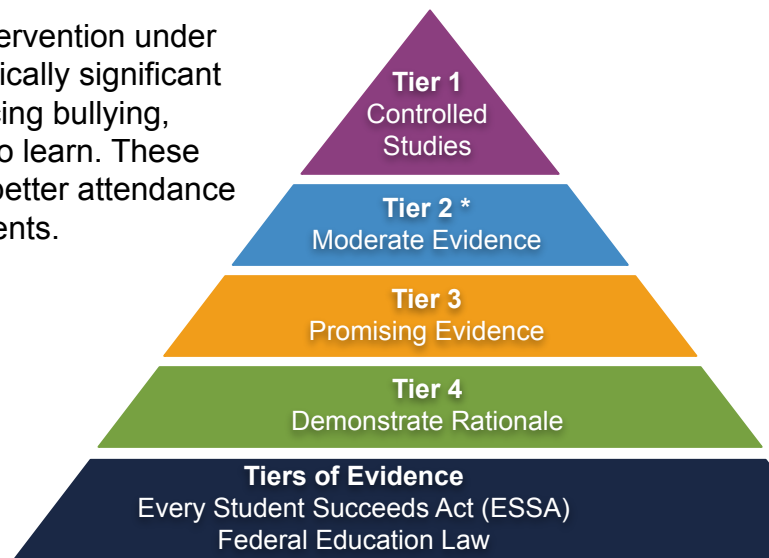


**STUDENTS FEEL  
SAFER AT SCHOOL**

**20% HIGHER**

*Playworks teachers' average rating of students' feelings of safety at school was 20% higher than the average ratings reported by teachers in control schools.*

*Positive findings from a randomized controlled trial, [Mathematica Stanford University 2013](#).*



## School Climate Indicators:

- ▲ Bullying
- ▲ Student Ownership of Activities
- ▲ Safety
- ▲ Adult Engagement
- ▲ Inclusiveness
- ▲ Positive Language

## Playworks increases attendance & reduces chronic absenteeism



An independent evaluation by Stanford University found that the Playworks led to a statistically significant increase in attendance among elementary school children. That increase was greatest among chronically absent students.



Attendance Works recognizes Playworks as one of a select few programs with research-proven success in improving attendance and reducing chronic absenteeism. Featured in the "Portraits of Change" report, Playworks fosters a positive, inclusive school climate, ensuring students are present, engaged, and prepared for long-term success.



*"Before we had Playworks, our chronic absence rate hovered at 12 to 15 percent. Last year, we ended at about 4 to 5 percent."*  
- Elementary School Principal

# Why School Climate Matters

A positive school climate is crucial for improving student attendance. Research shows that schools with a strong sense of safety, inclusion, and engagement see fewer absences and better overall student outcomes.

**Playworks' Contribution:** Playworks enhances school climate by fostering social competence through play, developing essential skills such as empathy, teamwork, and conflict resolution. This positive environment encourages students to attend school more regularly and reduces chronic absenteeism.

## A positive school climate:



Schools with a positive school climate see up to a **10% increase in student attendance**.<sup>3</sup>



Decreases risky behaviors and depressive symptoms, and rates of dropout and substance use<sup>2</sup>



Improves student **motivation** and **achievement**, feelings of **belonging**, and **college readiness**.<sup>1</sup>

## School climate affects student success:

**10x**

More likely to show substantial gains in reading and mathematics<sup>1</sup>

**16%**

Fewer days lost to suspensions<sup>1</sup>

**73%**

Decreased odds of dropping out<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Impact of School Climate | Youth.gov (n.d.)

<sup>2</sup> School Climate Improvement | National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE). U.S. Department of Education, American Institutes for Research (AIR). (n.d.) <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/school-climate-improvement>

<sup>3</sup> What is school climate and why is it important? | National School Climate Center (n.d) <https://schoolclimate.org/school-climate/>