



Minnesota Community Schoolyards Scoring Matrix

Topic	Maximum Potential Points
<p>Commitment: Community Schoolyard projects require an investment of the school community's time and resources. To succeed, schools must secure internal leadership support, including the principal, facilities department, and superintendent. Additionally, the school must commit to providing public access to the schoolyard space outside of regular school hours.</p>	25
<p>Readiness: Projects should be able to become 'shovel-ready' in relatively short order. Any planned construction projects, such as playgrounds, athletic fields, or basketball courts, can be done at the same time as the schoolyard renovation but need to be incorporated into the schoolyard design. These traditional schoolyard improvements are not eligible for funding through this program.</p>	20
<p>Area of High Need: We give the highest priority to schools serving communities in need. This includes but is not limited to communities of color, low-income communities, areas with health disparities, neighborhoods lacking access to parks and outdoor space, and areas most impacted by climate change. The 2021 Statewide Assessment is used as a benchmark for determining needs. However, we know that other data sources and community narratives will also play a factor in identifying need.</p>	20
<p>Partnerships: Successful schools will hold well-established partnerships with groups such as community groups, parents, parks departments, public health departments, civic organizations, and funders.</p>	15
<p>Vision: Schools partners should hold an imaginative, creative vision for their space that incorporates nature and outdoor learning, pushing beyond traditional playground design. Schools should also make space for a robust engagement process that centers fun, imagination, and openness.</p>	10
<p>Availability of Resources: When partners are able to provide their own additional capital investment funds, it opens doors to leveraging those dollars for greater impact. It is most helpful when matching funds are allocated through an agreement or capital improvement budget allocation. Matching funds may come from school, local, grant, or donor funds.</p>	10
<p>Total Points</p>	100