

The scorecard was created as part of a policy toolkit that supports advancing recess in schools through state laws. It was developed by the research team, with input from the advisory board, to provide a starting point for advocates and policymakers seeking to improve recess legislation. A score of “0” indicates that the law requires further development. We recommend first incorporating all essential best practices, followed by any enhanced best practices that are appropriate for your state.

Indiana has a physical activity law that may include recess.

BEST PRACTICE	LANGUAGE IN LAW	SCORE
ESSENTIAL BEST PRACTICES		
A. Mandates a time requirement of at least 20 minutes of daily recess	The governing body of each school corporation shall provide daily physical activity for students in elementary school. The physical activity may include the use of recess. <i>Note: Physical activity law and not a recess-specific law and the law does not specify the amount of time these periods should be</i>	1
B. Inclusive of all students in grades kindergarten-8	The governing body of each school corporation shall provide daily physical activity for students in elementary school. <i>Note: The law does not include middle school</i>	1
C. Prohibits schools from withholding recess	N/A	0
D. Prohibits schools from using recess to fulfil state mandated physical education requirements	N/A	0
E. Includes specific language on compliance	N/A	0

BEST PRACTICE	LANGUAGE IN LAW	SCORE
ENHANCED BEST PRACTICES		
F. Transition time does not count toward minimum time	N/A	0
G. Requires recess be provided on shortened school days	<p>On a day when there is inclement weather or unplanned circumstances that have <u>shortened the school day</u>, the school corporation may provide physical activity alternatives or <u>elect not to provide physical activity.</u></p> <p><i>Note: Allows for an exemption on shortened school days</i></p>	0
H. Requires recess to be inclusive for all students	N/A	0
I. Requires recess to be held outdoors	N/A	0
J. If recess is indoors, the law requires there to be adequate space for students to be physically active	N/A	0
K. Prohibits the use of personal electronic devices during recess	N/A	0
L. Requires schools to provide annual professional development opportunities for staff members who lead or supervise recess	N/A	0
M. Requires schools to schedule recess before lunch	N/A	0
N. Requires schools to provide age-appropriate equipment	N/A	0
O. Requires all recess equipment and facilities to meet or exceed safety standards	N/A	0