

Transform Schoolyards • Strengthen Student Well-Being

Workshops • Keynotes • Professional Learning

Schoolyards for Thought is a research-driven initiative that helps schools and districts reimagine schoolyards as **inclusive, climate-ready, equitable spaces** that foster student well-being, belonging, movement, play, and outdoor learning. It is led by Dr. Lauren McNamara, an educational and developmental psychologist, Ashoka Fellow, and changemaker.

Why This Matters Now

- Rising concerns related to overuse of social media and the decline of unstructured play, children's mental health, social connection, and physical activity
- Growing attention to belonging, peer dynamics, and inclusion
- Increasing climate pressures that include heat, flooding, and reduction in access to green space and biodiversity
- Calls for more unstructured free play, movement, outdoor learning, and physical activity

Well-designed and well-supported schoolyards benefit the whole school community and align with equity, health, and academic goals.

What We Offer

Professional Workshops

Practitioner-focused learning to:

- Translate research into practical strategies
- Support universal and inclusive design
- Improve recess quality and supervision practices
- Integrate schoolyard thinking into school improvement plans
- Schoolyard greening, habitat biodiversity, climate friendly

Interactive, evidence-informed, and designed for sustainable implementation.

Keynotes

Inspiring talks grounded in evidence and practice:

- Why schoolyards and recess matter
- Child development, play, and equity
- School culture and systems thinking
- Reimagining schoolyard design

Customizable for conferences, board meetings, teacher in-services, and leadership sessions.

Consulting & Change Support

We partner with schools, districts, and community organizations to:

- Review schoolyard spaces through an equity lens
- Embed inclusive outdoor learning and play into policy
- Co-create long-term, sustainable solutions

Translating research-to-practice for school boards and policymakers.

What You Can Expect

- Enhanced student **well-being, engagement, and belonging**
- Reduced bullying, conflict, and exclusion on the yard
- More equitable access to play, movement, and nature
- Strengthened connection between outdoor spaces and learning

Evidence shows that high-quality schoolyards increase school engagement, mental health, physical activity, and social connection.

Engage With Us

Contact: info@schoolyardsforthought.com

Learn more: www.schoolyardsforthought.com