

OAKLAND SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE

— A SCHOOL - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP —



dedicated to
transforming
schoolyards into
healthy places
where children
play, learn,
and grow

WHAT DOES THE OAKLAND SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE (OSI) DO?

1

OSI FACILITATES A PARTICIPATORY SCHOOLYARD DESIGN PROCESS

OSI engages an entire school community — students, teachers, parents, principals, staff, after-school providers — in planning and designing their schoolyard. Activities include one-to-one conversations, schoolyard walks, workshops, and classroom exercises. Each school determines its priorities for sports facilities, gardens, landscaping, murals, artistic gates, play structures, outdoor classrooms, and games.

2

OSI PRODUCES A SCHOOLYARD IMPROVEMENT PLAN

OSI produces a final Schoolyard Improvement Plan at the conclusion of the design process. Each plan illustrates and maps all physical improvements; outlines an implementation time line; and provides a project budget. Each plan is reviewed, modified if necessary, and approved by the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) Facilities Planning & Management Division. OUSD assures that each plan meets all regulatory requirements for universal accessibility and safety.

3

OSI FACILITATES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

OSI works with each school to implement its own schoolyard Improvement plan. OSI raises monies from foundations, corporations, and public agencies. It also works with schools to organize volunteer "Community-Build Days." These resources leverage OUSD capital investments to complete schoolyard renovations. After completion, OSI connects schools and community organizations to work together to provide supervised recreational activities after-school and during the summer.





Before



After



Field in Use

SCHOOLYARD IMPROVEMENTS AT URBAN PROMISE ACADEMY AND GARFIELD

Urban Promise Academy students play soccer on their new artificial turf field (below, left). A new sports field was their highest priority in the schoolyard planning process. Since its installation, students' physical activity levels have increased while injuries have decreased. Many studies link regular vigorous physical activity to the reduction of childhood obesity and diabetes as well as improvements in student academic outcomes.



Garfield Elementary's Schoolyard, completed in 2009, is OSI's first project.

“One thing I can definitely speak about is the dramatic decrease in injuries. The year before the turf got put in it was really scary how often kids came in with injuries. Since the turf came in, that has dramatically declined.”

Mark Triplet, Principal of Urban Promise Academy

“OSI's successful revitalization of the Garfield schoolyard resulted in more play and exercise while reducing graffiti, litter, and vandalism.”

Jamie Lopez, Managing Director of The Garfield Family Learning Center



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**Don Neuwirth
Program Manager**

415.550.8575
510.533.1092
neuwirth@well.com

East Bay Asian Youth Center
2025 East 12th Street
Oakland, CA 94606



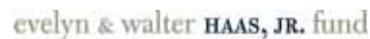
THE OAKLAND SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE

The Oakland Schoolyard Initiative (OSI) is a partnership between the East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC), The Unity Council, and the Oakland Unified School District Facilities Planning & Management Division



OSI Project Schools include: Garfield Elementary School, Urban Promise Academy Middle School, Manzanita SEED Elementary School, Manzanita Community School, Roosevelt Middle School, West Oakland Middle School, KIPP Bridge Middle School, Sankofa Elementary School, and Greenleaf Elementary School.

OSI gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following partners:



CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the Oakland Schoolyard Initiative:

David Kakishiba, Executive Director
East Bay Asian Youth Center (EBAYC)
2025 East 12th Street, Oakland, California 94606

PH: 510.533.1092 x25

FAX: 510.533.6825

EMAIL: junji@ebayc.org