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Parents Across RI

Recipient: RI Council on Elementary and Secondary Education and Ken Wagner

Letter: Greetings,

It is important to me that kids have an opportunity for free play time every single day. Research has shown that kids learn better and can self regulate better when given plenty of 'down time' throughout the day.

While I recognize the focus right now is on increasing the rigor and standards our kids must meet, it is equally important that we recognize that children need to play and that shorter and shorter recess times do not support the outcomes sought by increasing standards.

I understand that you are now considering your regulations for how long the school day will be, and that those regulations include 5.5 hours of instructional time.

You have an opportunity to protect recess and show that you see this as important to our youngest students by adding a provision to your guidelines for the school day to also include at least 30 minutes of recess. I hope that you will do that before finalizing the guidelines.

# Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Sheila Resseger	Cranston, RI	2015-11-03	In Finland, children's social, emotional, and physical health is promoted by frequent breaks throughout the school day. That we are going in the opposite direction is harmful and counter-productive. Children need recess!
Carrie Ann Marshall	Bristol, RI	2015-11-03	Because free time is just as important as instructional time for BOTH students and teachers
Jennifer Davies	Bristol, RI	2015-11-03	Recess is already too short! Let's not compromise what little they have already - it IS important!
Peg Bugara	Little Compton, RI	2015-11-04	As a Health and Physical Educator I believe there is more need for children K-8 to play. Learning is enhanced when children have an opportunity to play and relax within the school day.
Irene Tellier	East Providence, RI	2015-11-04	I am a first grade teacher
Carole Marshall	Pawtucket, RI	2015-11-04	Children learn invaluable skills at play, get needed physical exercise, and are more able to,absorb classroom content.
Christine Rossi	Riverside, RI	2015-11-04	Just STOP already! Kids need time to be kids!!!!!!
Karen Humes	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	I'm signing because our kids need to have activity during the day to keep going!
Alicia Monnes	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	Recess enables kids to learn better.
jessica beauchaine	Riverside, RI	2015-11-04	Because children need unstructured physical play. Recess builds social skills. Recess improves academic performance. Recess aids in physical development. Regular recess breaks help interrupt the monotony of sitting all day.
Lisa Meller	South Kingstown, RI	2015-11-04	Our youngest children are not being served in ways consistent with current research and common sense.
Bridget Garrity	Rumford, RI	2015-11-04	Children learn as they play. They more need peer support and less adult interference. Free play is just as important as structured learning.
Michelle Martins-Botelho	East Providence, RI	2015-11-04	" Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." - Mr. Fred Rogers
Michelle Peach Lang	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	I know how much my child relies on recess and unstructured play to be able to focus and enjoy learning the rest of the time.
Chris hubbard	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	Um, common sense?
karen votava	wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	I strongly believe that children need the benefit of physical activity to be built into their day.
Marjorie Vorhaben	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	I want students and teachers to love going to school.
Nicole Riley	South Kingstown, RI	2015-11-04	Our children need to learn in ways that are productive and exciting to them! Research shows that we are doing more harm then good by constantly testing them and teaching outside of their realm of understanding!
Elizabeth Matteson	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	Children NEED recess / free play so they can learn. It is how they were hard-wired to learn best.
Paula Bradley	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	I agree that elementary children should have outdoor play (recess) and open ended play time during the long school day.
Alexandra Henshel	Kingston, RI	2015-11-04	Children learn better with recess and time to eat lunch properly and purposefully!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Amanda McCann	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	I have three sons and know that, without recess, they will not have adequate opportunity for movement, will be less capable of focusing, and their learning will therefore suffer.
Michele Harrington	Riverside, RI	2015-11-04	Play is work for children. Adults get breaks, our children need them!
susan dinonsie	wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	My children routinely have less than 20 minutes of recess time a day.
Kate Lowell	Coventry, RI	2015-11-04	As a teacher myself of preschool I'm completely disgusted that elementary schools do not have mandatory recess. One of my students from last year sadly has not going outside in his kindergarten class once this year.
Daniel Coghlin	Saunderstown, RI	2015-11-04	Exercise is essential to learning, especially for kids.
Dorcas Haller	Providence, RI	2015-11-04	Children need time to learn through play. Play is serious work for children and helps them to develop.
Martha Badigian	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-04	As a school librarian, there are times when I ask kids to sit to and listen to a story, and those who have not had adequate time to run, move and play have a hard time sitting still. I can't imagine then having even less time for recess. Recess and play is a time to take a break and process what they have learned. If school is no longer fun for kids, they will not be able to focus at the times when they need to be focused. Many years of experience and observation have formed my opinion.
Stephanie Livesey	Cumberland, RI	2015-11-04	I am a parent and educator. Recess is a crucial part to a child's day.
robin wildman	west kingston, RI	2015-11-05	I am a public school teacher and see first-hand how much more, in this age of testing, testing and more testing, that students of all ages need a break. We need more recess!
Heather Himmel-Johnson	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-05	I'm a parent and special educator. I feel students need more time to move and play; especially because for many children, it's the only chance they get.
Erica Almeida	East Providence, RI	2015-11-05	Kids need time to play!
Erin Reslow	East Greenwich, RI	2015-11-05	My daughter attends Cedar Hill grade K in Warwick. Her class has never been outside - not once yet.
Nicole Cabral	portsmouth, RI	2015-11-05	We need a change!
Rep. Maria Cimini	Providence, RI	2015-11-05	It would be a powerful and important message to codify both the need for academic instruction and healthy physical and social development. Public schools should do both.
Jonathan Daly-LaBelle	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-05	As a society, we need to do a better job of respecting the whole child.
Daryl Gould	Warren, RI	2015-11-05	It is the responsibility of our educators and administration to work in the best interest of the student, in ALL facets of development!
Kerry Caparco	Charlestown, RI	2015-11-05	I believe recess is important part of childhood education.
Ellen Liberman	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-05	I'm a writer and recess is absolutely a part of my intellectual process. No one can sit there for hours at a time thinking and producing without mental and physical breaks. Our lifestyle makes us very unhealthy and the trend away from physical education and recess is teaching children lifelong bad habits that will diminish the quality of their lives and cost society in healthcare expenditures. It's elementary (and middle and high school). Recess!
Amy Mullen	Portsmouth, RI	2015-11-05	Recess time is learning time too!
Peter Duhamel	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-05	Kids absolutely need adequate non-instructional learning time. Academic achievement is only a part of their personal growth. They need to develop social skills and learn to deal with others, which play time provides

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June Cerrito	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-05	I am an elementary school teacher and I see the benefits of free play and movement. to student's learning.
Robyn Noble	Providence, RI	2015-11-05	Children need exercise and down time to develop neurologically. Asking young children to sit for 5.5 hours without any breaks is child abuse. Even the adults have two half hour breaks within that time frame.
michelle haley	Warwick, RI	2015-11-05	In the Scandinavian countries, they take the focus off academics in the elementary grades and let the kids play...a lot! They are consistently in the top rankings. Our education system is so broken!
Tessa Nunes	Coventry, RI	2015-11-05	I care!
Kimberly Zito	Charlestown, RI	2015-11-05	Kids deserve to be kids. All early childhood experts, even the pediatric physicians tell us how important unstructured play is. This is how they grow, learn, and to release energy. They need to move. Lunch time and recess time has been shortened so much they don't even have time to eat their lunch. The focus on academics is strangling these kids, academics will come, but until then, they need to play and be kids.
Leanne Arsenault	North Kingstown, RI	2015-11-05	Kids need MORE than one recess. Social education is just as important in their early years. Let the interact and learn through play!
Lynne Harper	South Kingstown, RI	2015-11-05	Recess matters
Wendy Anctil	Riverside, RI	2015-11-05	My child has ADHD, and it is crucial that he has time to move around and play. Studies have shown that symptoms of ADHD have been reduced when children are give at least 26 minutes of recess. I would propose a full 30 minutes of unstructured play and socialization time for all kids. Thank you.
Patricia Hart	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-05	Play is essential for children.
Sarah Denis	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-05	Children need to move. "Heavy work" grounds them allowing them to concentrate better. I see it in my son every day. Recess, preferably with equipment for climbing and swinging, is crucial for their brains. More recess = more quality learning time in the classroom. And continue through to grade 8. And make PE mandatory, if it isn't already, in high school.
Carolyn Dellinger	Cranston, RI	2015-11-05	Yes!! This is so important for our kids!!
Lynda Nelson	East Providence, RI	2015-11-05	All students need a break in their day where they can relax let the pressure of learning should be put aside for laughter and friends for a short periods of time before resuming the day.
KAYLA BUCHANAN	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-05	I havev a kindergartener and I have seen first hand how much more focused and interested she can become when I simply give her a break for free play.
Marian Styles-McClintock	Providence, RI	2015-11-05	We need to change the requirement of high stakes testing.
Aimee Quigley	West Kingston, RI	2015-11-05	Children need outdoor play. Nature is vital to us as human beings and the connection to nature and fresh air should be strengthened at a young age to create a well rounded human being!
Rachel Cottman	Saunderstown, RI	2015-11-05	I'm signing because as a mother of 3 recess is important for social and developmental growth. Also, for physical health and to decompress all the stress their little bodies take from the classroom
Donna Adams	Riverside, RI	2015-11-05	I have 3 granddaughters in elementary school in RI.
Brendan Murphy	Stonington, CT	2015-11-05	Kids need to play
Jo-Ann Souza	Tiverton, RI	2015-11-05	As a retired elementary teacher, I know that children need that outdoor play at school. Some many children now sit at home and "play" with their I-pads. They don't know how to interact with other children unless it is an organized sport. Bring back free play time!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Dannie Ritchie	Providence, RI	2015-11-05	Physical activity is essential for their physical, social, non-cognitive and cognitive development and well-being. It is counterproductive to expect better academic results without providing break time. How could there be a public health message that we should be more physically active and schools demand and model the opposite. It is not only the wrong message, it is tantamount to physical abuse to not provide time for children to have free play time.
Robert Hanlon	Cranston, RI	2015-11-05	I feel as a parent I want to be sure that my children have a school schedule that balances play and socialization with academic work. I fear that RIDE policies push children to burn out and dislike school and learning.
Anne Vautour	Toronto, Canada	2015-11-05	I care about the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health of children!
Amanda Howard	Newport, RI	2015-11-05	Taking a child's free play time away is not only ineffective at improving their academic scores, it's cruel. These are children that we are talking about, not little robots.
Andrew Gilmartin	Peace Dale, RI	2015-11-05	Play is a critical element of early childhood learning. Kids that play in the early years quickly catch up on the academic development. The reverse is not so.
David Cann	Wyoming, RI	2015-11-05	My children derived great benefit from attending a school that provided daily time for recess and unstructured play. I want all children to be provided time each day for play.
Karen Marchetti	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-06	Kids need to play
Colleen Boisclair	East Greenwich, RI	2015-11-06	Our children need more opportunities to move throughout the day. Their school experience needs to be more developmentally appropriate.
Amber Collins	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-06	Children need grew play and movement to learn and to be healthy. This is a necessity not a luxury
Christy Dutra	Richmond, RI	2015-11-06	Children can't sit if they have all of that energy inside of them - they will become better students if they are allowed to be children first.
kimberly maratto	Riverside, RI	2015-11-06	All kids deserve a break. Lunch and recess provide this. Let's allow our children to BE children!
Tara Orton	Charlestown, RI	2015-11-06	Kids need the time to expel energy, unwind, let their little minds rest, and most importantly "be little" Let them have fun!!!
Andi Kenyon	Westerly, RI	2015-11-06	Studies show that active and creative play only improve a child's intelligence. Also, with childhood obesity on the rise it is important that children learn how to take their time when eating. Let's do right by our children and give them time to play and eat!
Linda Minisce	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-06	Children need to have time to relax. It will help the settle down and learn more easily.
Kristina Boving	Hope Valley, RI	2015-11-06	I believe free play and recess are extremely important for healthy child development.
Megan Kurth	North Kingstown, RI	2015-11-06	I am a parent and a community member and I care.
Lauren Bogues	Portsmouth, RI	2015-11-06	I'm signing because children learn through play, not just sitting and listening. I want what's best for my children as they near kindergarten age.
Stephanie Geller	Cranston, RI	2015-11-06	I'm signing this petition because children need time to run, play, and be outside in order to learn, grow, and be healthy.
Dave Wrenn	North Kingstown, RI	2015-11-06	As a parent of two very successful young men who both attended municipal public schools, I believe that school play time is an important and integral facet necessary for education. As limited as it is now, it should not be reduced.
Laura Joyce	Providence, RI	2015-11-06	The benefits of physical activity include improvements in cognitive function + fun

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Emily Caldarelli	Providence, RI	2015-11-06	I am a 4th grade teacher in Providence and our recess was shortened this year by 10 minutes. Not good!
Khadija Lewis Khan	Middletown, RI	2015-11-06	Children need unstructured playtime during the day in order to be healthy and ready to learn!
caroline riess	warwick, RI	2015-11-06	recess is important !
Jennifer QuigleyHarris	Providence, RI	2015-11-06	Daily quality recess is crucial for better learning outcomes.
Mary Anne Roll	Lincoln, RI	2015-11-06	All students benefit from time during the school day for unstructured play/recess. In Lincoln we have been able to schedule 30 minutes each for lunch and recess at the elementary schools. Would love to see time for "recess" included at MS and HS as well.
Heather Marty	Narragansett, RI	2015-11-06	Children need playtime for so many reasons, to get their energy out and to socialize being a couple of reasons!
Diane MacLean	Narragansett, RI	2015-11-06	I am signing because I feel very strongly that children need to play and not just sit at their desks for longer periods. It actually helps them to do their work later once they have expended all that energy! They absolutely need to have recess in their day, preferable more than just at lunchtime!
Stephanie Kendall	Hopkinton, RI	2015-11-06	Recess is imperative to children's learning
Tracy Hart	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-06	Healthy children are our country's greatest asset.
Karlo Berger	Providence, RI	2015-11-06	Recess is a human right!
Sherry Ledsworth	Bristol, RI	2015-11-06	I'm signing because our children require their recess time. It is a positive aspect in their school day.
Brooke Beach	Attleboro, MA	2015-11-06	I teach first grade and the direction that things have headed are a direct disservice to our chikdren. Playing is learning- let's bring it back.
Diane Somers	Warwick, RI	2015-11-07	Recess is vital!!! Every parent, doctor, and child psychologist will confirm this. Please don't force us to unite and file a court petition. Protect recess. You know it's the right thing.
elizabeth westcott	narragansett, RI	2015-11-07	People of all ages need to move!
Nomi Hurwitz	Prov, RI	2015-11-07	Recess is important and should not be abbreviated or removed...
ellen santaniello	providence, RI	2015-11-07	Children aren't designed to sit, their bodies need to be engaged for emotional regulation and sound cognition. Play is their native language.
Connie Willeford	Wood River Junction, RI	2015-11-07	I have 4 kids that went through the school system with recess and now I have 2 more getting ready to start. I see the difference in my kids daily demeanor when we get outside time and when we have to miss it on rare occasion. I feel it is integral to a child's development to be able to play freely and coupling that with all the info on American children being overweight I feel this is not something that should be taken out of the curriculum or even shortchanged. For some, esp. in the colder months, this may be their only outside activity time.
Patricia Moreau	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-07	I believe kids need to be free to move and play during their day.I would like the idea of standing desks to be considered,also.

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Claire Vargo-Willeford	Wood River Junction, RI	2015-11-07	I want my brothers to have the same free time I did in school as a child. Some of us need the chance to have a physical part to our day- we can't just sit in a chair all the time. In elementary and middle school, recess gave that to me. When I lost that in high school, I had to join the automotive program at my school to keep me happy, and feeling like I got to move around. If it weren't for that, I don't know how well I would have done in the rest of my classes. If I could still need that physical movement in my day as a teenager, how can young children not REQUIRE it? They need recess, and we need to give it to them.
alex smith-bourget	Providence, RI	2015-11-07	..because this is a no brainer.
Taylor McCauley	Boonsboro, MD	2015-11-07	Recess is a vital part of education- especially with Common Core, students need an outlet more than ever. Take away recess, and they'll be less likely to be creative or even pay attention to anything.
Lisa Mota	Bristol, RI	2015-11-08	Recess is extremely important especially for children with ADHD.. They need that time to let loose so they can learn..
Nada Samih	Providence, RI	2015-11-08	My children's health depends on this!
Cathy Moffitt	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-09	I believe children should have the opportunity for unstructured time. I hope many would spend it being active which is shown to improve learning for most students.
Robyn Cook	N.Kingstown, RI	2015-11-09	I think it's so important for kids to have recess. They need exercise and social interaction during the school day. If we do away with more recess time, it will have very negative impact on our kids.
terri longworth	West Warwick, RI	2015-11-09	I know the importance of play for all human beings, but especially children. Their work IS their play! I also happen to agree with the scientifically based research that speaks to how we will see a reduction of classroom "behaviors" and children will be able to focus on academics, which is just a part of educating a whole child.
Martha Ferreira	Pawtucket, RI	2015-11-09	I am signing this petition since a child healthy development emotionally and socially is just as important as an appropriated education to my child and every child in RI
Robyn Borges	Jamestown, RI	2015-11-09	It takes my students at least 10 minutes to transition to/from our recess spot daily. They get 10 minutes to play.
Katherine Scott	North Kingstown, RI	2015-11-09	I'm signing because there is so much emphasis on pushing kids to learn more but somehow it is being forgotten that they are kids. The way their brains develop hasn't changed but they are being forced into 5.5 hours of learning with no break is setting them up to fail.
Melissa Bouvier	Cumberland, RI	2015-11-09	I'm signing this because as both a teacher and a parent I realize the importance of free play in young children. Students perform better and are more engaged in learning after they are given the opportunity to release some energy. Also with a combined 30 minutes for lunch, recess, and transition, students do not have much time to play or eat. I have watched students throw out almost an entire tray of food because after they stood in line for 10-15 minutes to get their food, they do not have enough time to eat it. As a parent who sends my child to school with a lunch from home, he comes home most days and has not eaten most of his lunch. When asked why he replies, "I don't have enough time to eat my lunch." Students need ample time to eat and to play in order to be ready to learn!

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Jill Beaune	Warwick, RI	2015-11-09	My daughter has type1 diabetes and not eating her entire lunch is never an option. She almost never gets to go to recess and blow off steam with her friends. I believe all students need time during the day to stretch and talk and more importantly, have those few moments where they can just be. No pressure , no expectations.
Marya Mercado	North Kingstown, RI	2015-11-09	Play and activity are essential.
Nathan Scott	Cranston, RI	2015-11-09	I believe these breaks are instrumental in their mental focus.
Susan Donovan	Bristol, RI	2015-11-09	Free play and physical activity is related to children's success in school. Please consider the research when making decisions in this area.
Justine Ray	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-09	Kids need recess.
Shannon Long	Bradford, RI	2015-11-09	I am a teacher of 5th and 6th grade students who are in desperate need of movement. Children learn better when they are able to move!
Jeanne LaBelle	Narragansett, RI	2015-11-09	I believe this is a necessary part of learning and makes children healthier.
Stephanie Zonfrillo	Warwick, RI	2015-11-10	I'm signing this petition because I am a parent and a teacher, who sees the benefit of recess and free playtime in both aspects of my life. My students need it to learn best and get themselves through a school day. I can't imagine my young children not having it. It is very important and I support this petition.
Jens Maynard-dean	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-11	I loved recess
Sarah Craft	Lancaster, PA	2015-11-11	Playing allows children to form friendships and learn how to interact with each other in appropriate ways. Anyone who has ever asked a child between the ages of 5 and 11 to sit in one spot all day and focus on a series of tasks without become distracted, knows this is impossible. "Non-instructional" time is essential to children's success, it helps them focus better during instructional periods and even though what they are learning during these time periods might not be part of the curriculum, it is still important.
Onna Holland	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-11	I believe kids need movement breaks and to be active.
Roberta Mulholland	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-11	Children need recess. They need time to run around in fresh air, play, burn off energy, and relate to each other in a non-structured way. No computers, video games, TV, cell phones, just relating through playing together. And recess has to be long enough to let them relax their brains. A PhD is not required to know this, anyone who was ever a child knows this.
Kim Pierce	Lincoln, RI	2015-11-11	Kids need to grow socially. Many kids social and physical needs can improve at free play. Kids have no idea even how to play by running, jumping and laughing. What a sad world they are growing up in.
Elizabeth Scott	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-12	I care about the health and well being of our state's children. Recess is essential and must be protected!
Noreen Casey	Narragansett, RI	2015-11-12	I have a child in 4th grade. Recess and playtime is vital in a children's lives. It cannot be all about test scores. Learning to deal in social situations happen when kids interact. RI is already going down a horrific path with the Common Core curriculum, don't take the children's joy away too.
Nicole Baird	Exeter, RI	2015-11-12	I have 2 children. One is in 1st grade and one will start preschool next year. The education system has already changed so much for the worse. Please don't take away another childhood normalcy.
Peter Blackwell	West Kingston, RI	2015-11-12	The evidence is clear.
Erin Welchman	Tiverton, RI	2015-11-12	I am a school nurse at an elementary school and I see the physical, social, mental and academics benefits. I also have 3 children who benefited from recess everyday at school.
Mary Mook	West Kingston, RI	2015-11-12	I am a teacher and so believe students need play and recess!



Name	Location	Date	Comment
Mary Helldorfer-Cooney	West Kingston, RI	2015-11-12	Free play is as important as direct instruction--children need to have the freedom to move, think, create, play. There was a study done in Norway where they reduced direct instructional time and *eliminated homework*. Test scores went through the roof. Children had the chance to expend their energy, clear their minds and when it came down to it, focus on their work. Let's look to that model. Mary Cooney, MA, Ed.
David Napier	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-12	Recess is important to relieve stress, but also, it's the only time in the day where the kids can socialize.
Janet Rivard Michaud	Providence, RI	2015-11-12	This is essential for health and optimal learning but it's also minimal at 30 mins per day. Movement, outdoor time, interaction with peers and creative problem-solving through play (and just plain down time) should be incorporated multiple times per day in each class as part of the best possible opportunity for all kids to grow both academically and as members of a community who are creative out of the box thinkers.
joan tucker	garland, TX	2015-11-13	I have 2 grandchildren in RI schools and I believe they need recess as well as academic studies. Helps their minds and bodies
Kelly Shinnors	Narragansett, RI	2015-11-13	Restricting free play time is bad for children. Play is the "work" of children, and in the lower grades, it's essential that kids have adequate down time to let their minds develop naturally, they will be less able to grasp the concepts offered in structured learning time.
isabel Kinnes	cumberland, RI	2015-11-13	I don't believe the parc testing is reasonable before our children to much time preparing and than they became extremely stressed because what they see on tests it far exceeds what they have been thought .
Jennifer Bristol	Bristol, RI	2015-11-13	I work with children everyday here at the Farm. Hands on, collaborative play feeds creativity AND problem solving. Save recess..
Carol McGinness	Lincoln, RI	2015-11-13	We have an obesity problem in this country. We do not need to cut physical activity. And kids need this unstructured time to decompress and socialize.
Erin Margolis	Newport, RI	2015-11-13	The children I know need more play. Kids learn through play it may or may not be math or reading but let us not forget Life Skills.
Kristin Russo	North Scituate, RI	2015-11-13	My thoughts on Common Core and the PARCC test are expressed here:  <a href="https://kristinrusso.wordpress.com/2015/03/09/parcc-test-what-to-do/" rel="nofollow">https://kristinrusso.wordpress.com/2015/03/09/parcc-test-what-to-do/</a>
Ashley Duval	Tiverton, RI	2015-11-13	I am an Early Childhood educator.
Aida Neary	Newport, RI	2015-11-13	Brains need rest. Physical activity allows the brain the rest it needs to keep growing. Include recess.
Allyson Girouard	woonsocket, RI	2015-11-13	I don't think the government should dictate what the states can decide on their own.
cheryl adessi	warwick, RI	2015-11-13	kids absolutely need their down time!!!!
Catherine McManus	Bristol, RI	2015-11-13	I'm signing because I feel strongly that recess is an important part of the school day. The social, mental, and physical skills learned at this time are vital to a child's development. I believe research backs this up!
Adam Ramos	Bristol, RI	2015-11-13	I'm signing because I believe that play is critically important to a quality education for elementary age students.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Joan Pucino	North Kingstown, RI	2015-11-13	Common Core is unhealthy, plain & simple. It does not prepare kids for college or work well. It is too lacking and too stressful for kids & their families. At it's worse it makes no sense, versus proven ways of teaching the same materials. My gkids are sooo stressed & frustrated all the time, that I wish their parents would pull them out of school and let me home school them.
cassie tharinger	providence, RI	2015-11-13	Play was so incredibly essentially to my childhood and early development--I don't yet have kids of my own, but I can't even imagine how sad it would make me to subject my children to the intense, highly-scheduled, play-less routine I hear about from everyone I know who works in public education. (Not to mention the impact on the teachers & educators!)
Kristine DeComo	Portsmouth, RI	2015-11-13	I care about the well being of children. Children need time to play. Not more time in the classroom working on developmentally inappropriate curriculum.
Peter DeComo	Portsmouth, RI	2015-11-13	Children need more play time and less time with developmentally inappropriate curriculum.
Kate Gardull	Newport, RI	2015-11-13	I'm signing because children need time to run and play in order to help them grow and learn!
Cathy Alber	Smithfield, RI	2015-11-14	As a kindergarten teacher, I am seeing first hand the effects of a full day of academics. Children in the early grades need time to move, discover and explore through hands on experiences. Just as we adults need breaks to recharge, so do young children. They are not mini adults. Don't take away opportunities for them to learn at their best. Recess and snack times are also important for social emotional development. Due to the Common Core and the increased academic expectations, opportunities for social emotional learning are very limited.
Savoie Sally	West Warwick, RI	2015-11-14	Children need to move, especially young children who are still developing their motor skills.
Karen Gundlach	Warwick, RI	2015-11-14	Kids need play and to get their wiggles out so they can concentrate.
Michael Twarog	Saunderstown, RI	2015-11-14	Recess is going away in many schools.
Marcia Lake	Bristol, RI	2015-11-14	I'm signing because children learn through play and we have been slowly chipping away at the amount of time they are allowed to in our public schools. They also need physical play as an outlet. They are not designed to sit still all day. In fact, I do not know many adults that can sit still all day long either. Please do not reduce valuable recess from our children's curriculum.
Lynne Damiano	Providence, RI	2015-11-14	Children learn through play! There is so much research proving the necessity for exploration and movement in young children. To be honest, the majority of the day should include more unstructured time for children to pretend and learn from experimenting and hands on projects.
Katie Gross	Middletown, RI	2015-11-14	Recess is a necessity for proper exercise, vitamin D, and kids learn from play! See Finland studies and others.its good for their brains!
Laurie Bradburn	West Greenwich, RI	2015-11-14	As an educator of young children I have seen the outcomes when children do not move their bodies and choose their activities. Stressed children, stressed teachers, no progress.
Ed Northby	West Kingston, RI	2015-11-14	I have 2 young boys who really benefit from play and they deserve to be kids.
Patricia Lamarre	Warwick, RI	2015-11-14	It's the developmentally appropriate thing to do.
Heather Crump	Cumberland, RI	2015-11-14	I'm signing this because my daughter barely has enough time to eat her lunch or may not eat if she has to go the bathroom. Outdoor/indoor play is an integral part of learning, problem solving, and creative thinking!
Susan Knott	North Kingstown, RI	2015-11-14	Recess is fun and important.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Cheryl demenezes	Middletown, RI	2015-11-15	I believe movement and free play are vital links to learning.
William Kimes	Newport, RI	2015-11-15	Politicians should let teachers run schools.
Joyce Butler	Waimea, HI	2015-11-17	children depend on the adults to protect them from school policies and practices that are harmful to their well being. School officials have a responsibility to respect the evidence regarding the importance of recess and protect children's right to play.
Carolyn Belisle	Cumberland, RI	2015-11-17	Kids need time to be active and be "kids" in order to be healthy and able to learn.
Amy Mead	Charlestown, RI	2015-11-17	Adults have breaks protected by labor laws. All children deserve free time to play and relax in an unstructured environment!
Dr McInteer	Jamestown, RI	2015-11-18	Fresh air is good; exercise is good; moving is good; talking is good. Sitting for 6 hours a day is bad for your mental, spiritual and physical health and its pure torture for anyone who has to do it.
Amber Day	Providence, RI	2015-11-18	I have a child who is currently in kindergarten. I was planning on enrolling him in our local public school but pulled him out at the last moment exclusively because of the recess issue. Ten minutes of recess for a 5 year old is insane. We are currently getting financial aid at a Montessori school, but still can't really afford that in the long run. I very much want him to attend public school, but this issue is the one that makes me very worried.
Shira Hirshberg	Saunderstown, RI	2015-11-18	I want my child to get an opportunity for physical activity every day at school!
Julie Gearan	Providence, RI	2015-11-19	Kids need to be outside and play without structure.
Anne Wolfe	Providence, RI	2015-11-19	OUR KIDS NEED AT LEAST 45 MINUTES OF RECESS/FREE PLAY EVERYDAY!
JoAnne Waite	Bristol, RI	2015-11-19	recess is important to kids physical, and social/emotional well being
Ingrid Heilke	Providence, RI	2015-11-19	Kids need physical activity during the school day. High level cognitive functioning and learning is dependent on it.
Nicole Cardarelli	Coventry, RI	2015-11-19	There is too much scientific evidence regarding the value of free play for children to avoid this issue. Please make recess the priority in needs to be.
jennifer medeiros	Tiverton, RI	2015-11-19	I agree! Children need more time to play and let out energy.
Jessie Darrell-Jarbadan	Warwick, RI	2015-11-19	All children need unstructured play to develop important problem solving and creativity.
Nicholas Haber	New York, NY	2015-11-20	Kids learn a lot by playing
Mary Rocha	Johnston, RI	2015-11-20	I believe play and the power of play are crucial to life, learning, and fostering creativity for all, especially our youth!
Deana Dufficy	Bristol, RI	2015-11-20	There is boundless evidence around the need for movement for children, and we need to ensure that opportunities for movement are available to children throughout the school day.  I also feel that the council should address lunch. 20 minutes is less than ample time for children to eat healthful lunches.
Adrian Soto	Providence, RI	2015-11-20	recess is important because mental breaks are important for learning. not just for children but for adults also. this has been scientifically proven.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Carrie Ortiz	Rumford, RI	2015-11-20	Children need at least 60 min a day of playtime, preferably outside. Why are we not following Finlands model of school? Finland has the number one educational system in the world. They don't start formal education until age 7 and every hour their children get to run outside and play. This freeze their brain and give them a break so that when they come back to their seat work they are refreshed and ready to learn.
Katherine Kiselka	Bristol, RI	2015-11-20	I constantly get a son who comes home from school saying he didn't have enough time for lunch to finish his food. He says it is always rushed. If he orders lunch the time is even shorter to eat because he has to wait in the lunch line. He also complains that they have such a short recess. By the time they start playing a game and organizing it, it is already time to go back in. This is not healthy for children and I believe this is an extremely important petition to maintain children's well being.
Julian Drix	Providence, RI	2015-11-20	Play is an essential component of children's growth and educational development. Lack of play time can make young children begin to hate school, which would have long lasting impacts on their relationship to education.
Courtney Jacobs	Coventry, RI	2015-11-20	I believe recess is critically to the mental and physical health of our children and students. I am a teacher and parent.
Kevin Kitchen	Bristol, RI	2015-11-20	Little children need more time for exercise and more time to eat their lunches.
Michael DeCotis	Tiverton, RI	2015-11-20	Kids at this age level need physical activity and conversation to develop properly
Michele Theroux	Cranston, RI	2015-11-20	Children need a break to refresh themselves for the rest of the day of learning. It gives their brain and body a chance to get some energy out and to de-stress.
Kristin Charpentier	Coventry, RI	2015-11-21	I believe that outdoor play is essential for children's development and for a future world in which adults value the outdoors.
Jennifer Joslyn	Tiverton, RI	2015-11-21	I feel recess is very important to health and welfare for my child.
J Lapham	East Providence, RI	2015-11-21	I'm a parent. My kids are not office workers.
Tovah Muro	Cranston, RI	2015-11-21	As a parent & an educator this issue is of utmost importance
Sandra Alaimo	Joliet, IL	2015-11-21	First and foremost, I know the benefits to healthy physical activity. Children need to be moving and in the play mode. Too many activities are organized and structured and lack the creative process.
Jennifer Vecoli	West Warwick, RI	2015-11-22	Children learn through play and experience. They also need nourishment with real meal times. My daughters are 3 and 1 and the lack of balanced, whole child learning is so concerning to me as they approach school age. When I tell people that children nowadays barely have 10 minutes to eat then 10 for recess they think that's not possible. It was so different years ago. We know better, let's do better for our children.
Christina costa	Tiverton, RI	2015-11-22	Kids learn by playing !
Megan Heinze	Providence, RI	2015-11-22	Dear Commissioner,  Please do not approve this proposal for revisions in the school day which does not specifically include recess time in the school day until you have spent your entire day as a kindergartner, 1st grader, 2nd grader, etc. in this proposed timeframe. While it may all make sense to you on paper it feels much different to actually experience it. I'm sure if you become a student for an entire child's day you will see the importance of and the absolute need for more recess time and more free-play time within every RI child's school day.  Please use your position to do the right thing for all RI Children.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Thea Lacey	Providence, RI	2015-11-22	I am a grandmother of a very active and playful 6-year-old boy. I know first hand the value and benefit of him playing outdoors. Children are so precious; self directed child play is crucial to the well being of every child! Please save recess! Without it we will see more and more unhappy children.
Frances Araujo	Providence, RI	2015-11-23	Anyone who has the tiniest understanding of child development knows what little children need. There are so many good reasons for recess.
Kimberly Barsamian	Cranston, RI	2015-11-23	I am a teacher and parent who feels very strongly that children need to have time to play and have social interactions with other children. Children need sunshine and fresh air to be healthy and happy. It is harder to concentrate and be ready to learn when they have not had real time to do what kids do best--play! I also believe middle school and high school students need time to breathe and interact with each other for the same reasons younger children do.
Lisa Edwards	Pawtucket, RI	2015-11-23	As an Occupational Therapist in the Providence Public school, I believe it is a vital part of learning. Kids need 2 hours of vigorous play and some of it needs to be right before or during school to maximize learning.
Mary Densley	Barrington, RI	2015-11-23	I'm an occupational therapist in the Providence Schools and see far too many children deprived of the necessary movement that they need in order to have their minds and bodies ready to learn.
taryn stelmach	Swansea, MA	2015-11-23	I am an OT in the public school system and have seen firsthand the devastation removing playtime and physical activity has had on our students.
Allison Duarte	Cumberland, RI	2015-11-23	I am signing this petition because as a RI Teacher, I see the need for social and physical development in my students. Young children need the proper time to be creative in free play, eat lunch and transition from activity to activity. This is especially true in the inner city schools whose children may not get to play when they get home in the evening or the access to extra curricular activities due to working parents and hardships.
Virginia Tillinghast	Cranston, RI	2015-11-23	Children need this opportunity to grow and develop fully in order to be successful in life. Mandated recess at school would be uninterrupted play without the distractions of electronics or homework.
Jessica Bessette	Cumberland, RI	2015-11-23	Free play is an extremely important part of the day.
Stephen Dahl	Kingston, RI	2015-11-23	It is age-appropriate for elementary school children to have enough time during the morning and afternoon to freely exercise and play outside without adult direction (while supervised). Then they are able to focus on their schoolwork inside more effectively. The ancient Greeks knew that the mind-body connection to learning was critical. Why have we forgotten it? Need more empirical data, do you? Why not look at the children and observe them yourself, every day! Your school is working if there are smiles on their faces.
Elizabeth Butler	Providence, RI	2015-11-23	I want my child to have a balanced education. Play is ESSENTIAL.
Kristine Bovy	South Kingstown, RI	2015-11-23	Kids need recess!!
Holly Dunsworth	Wakefield, RI	2015-11-23	Free play as well as bodily movement are both crucial to the health and well-being of learners and of developing minds and bodies. This is a no brainer. Recess time is as important as lunch time. And they should be separate, too.
Rachelle friesen	Providence, RI	2015-11-23	This is important.
Adam buck	Providence, RI	2015-11-23	play is a very important part of children developmental process, helps with problems solving, motorskills and interpersonal relationship development. All very important skills for the 21st century
Melissa McKee	Saunderstown, RI	2015-11-23	Kids learn thru play and need physical activity.
carmel lombardi	Providence, RI	2015-11-23	I believe children learn through play and they need more opportunities to do so during the school day

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Vennessa Dilorenzo	Coventry, RI	2015-11-24	I believe the common core needs to go! The longer days need to stop being discussed and our kids should enjoy school!!! No change in recess time
Heather Bessee	Westerly, RI	2015-12-02	I believe recess and play will allow our kids' brains and bodies the ability to not only learn and grow but to become exceptional learners and allow them to thrive educationally!
Susan Sanchez	McAllen, TX	2015-12-04	my recess time got banned from my elementary for Collage Readiness Um I was 7 and how do you make a little kid collage ready at such a young age
Sarah O'Brien	Pawtucket, RI	2015-12-04	Recess is important for healthy development and academic achievement.
Melissa Gillooly	Warwick, RI	2015-12-04	Recess is critical to a child's ability to maintain focus and attention during long instructional periods. Even more so than an adult, whose break times during work are mandated by law.
Nicole Renzulli	Cranston, RI	2015-12-08	There have been countless studies touting the crucial role that recess plays in schools. Recess benefits the whole child, cognitively, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally, and needs a firm spot in each and every child's school day. I believe that recess is a right of children and not a privilege.
LIZ RENZULLI	CRANSTON, RI	2015-12-08	Children need to get up and move around to releave all that pend up frustration .
Annie Harty	Cranston, RI	2015-12-08	Even adults get a coffee break. If you work 8 hours it is mandated by law that the organization/ company that employs you gives you a 15 minute break. If an adult needs a break to refresh recharge & become more productive why wouldn't a child? What sense would it make to take away recess from a child especially as a form of "punishment"? That form of thinking is antiquated & Neanderthal at best! Children need to release that energy taking that away will only challenge them further. Certainly there are other alternatives? Perhaps lunch in the office, an additional writing/ or task appropriate assignment would not only benefit the child by helping them to learn from their mistake but also have a sense of accountability & maybe even improve their math/ writing skills, that seems to make more sense than sitting in class with their head down or going outside & standing up against a wall torturously observing the other children at play. Teachers & Administrators need to keep in mind that children all learn differently perhaps they should teach differently!
Pauline Belal	Providence, RI	2015-12-09	I believe that this is detrimental to our children's overall development, their ability to learn how solve problems, focus and release.
Stacy Vezina-Wortman	North Scituate, RI	2015-12-09	We need to let children be children again! Cutting recess is ridiculous and with the amount of homework they have, after school play is almost nonexistent ! Why can the powers that be not recognize this is aiding in children being over stressed and shutting down!
Beth Baccari	Cranston, RI	2015-12-09	I'm signing because I believe it's crucial that children be allowed to have a break during the school day that involves unstructured physical activity and play.
Lisa Rotella	Johnston, RI	2015-12-09	My son was scolded continually for not doing things .. Like some home work ... And he was a good boy and has ADHD and teachers called me almost daily .. Very awful experience ... Children do need to play ... Teachers should realize the children can be hurt and developed a major self esteem issue !!!
David Ahlborn	Providence, RI	2015-12-10	I care about the whole child.
Evangelitsa Foussekis	Lincoln, RI	2015-12-12	As an educator, I understand the importance of having recess time in a child's education. Research proves that there are many benefits with having children enjoy recess time every day.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
gina coppolino	warwick, RI	2015-12-22	Kids deserve better and testing does not matter nearly as much as creative & free play
Keith Mercado Lazarski	North Kingstown, RI	2016-01-09	Because learning involves creative, free play. Learning and retention of information solidifies through play. Kids play. Kids should play more. Adults should play. Everyone would live more fulfilling lives if we all had more recess.  Board of Education & Commissioner Wagner - this is not a local issue, it's a national one. We need to have a baseline of minimum required recess for students.
Joe Margres	Smithfield, RI	2016-01-24	Read up on healthy adolescent development please
Brandy Marth	Narragansett, RI	2016-02-12	Free play should be considered unstructured learning. They are being educated during this time!! They need this!!
Priscilla Williams	Wakefield, RI	2016-02-13	Children are not getting enough opportunity to socialize during the school day or to get adequate exercise and fresh air. Children have difficulty focusing for prolonged periods without built in breaks, causing unnecessary stress and anxiety among young children.
Heidi Fisher	South Kingstown, RI	2016-02-13	I agree that children deserve quality unstructured free play during the school day. Basic human rights people! Stop treating our children like employees of a corporation!
Lisa Jones	South Kingstown, RI	2016-02-16	I'm signing this petition because research has shown time and time again that recess / free play help children learn and grow socially as well as academically. It is time that our schools catch up with what research has already shown us time and time again. Please give our children the chance to grow and learn in a developmentally appropriate environment!
Melissa Davdison	South Kingstown, RI	2016-02-16	Our kids need this!
Talia Pettini	Westerly, RI	2016-02-16	Sad that this even needs to be addressed when study after study shows the importance of free play for young children's social, emotional and even academic growth & development...
Allison Baker	Hope, RI	2016-02-17	I believe strongly In This cause. I work in an elementary school and my daughter attends a 1/2 day K program with no time for Recess.
Elana Carello-Rabiner	Cranston, RI	2016-03-08	Recess should never be taken away as a punishment.
jessica hopkins	providence, RI	2016-03-09	I am a child psychologist and the research on the benefits of recess are clear. Why are they ignored as our children become more sedentary, overweight, bored, and distractible? I see parent pulling their kids out of public school for a healthier balance between work and activity at private school and homeschooling. Why aren't we addressing this as the state lags behind neighboring states in education? Let's do the right thing here and at least give our students recess!
Susan Cournoyer	Warwick, RI	2016-03-09	The children need time to burn off some energy during the day. Also socialization during recess is very important
Angela Valente	Wyoming, RI	2016-03-10	It's ludicrous that children do not get breaks and get to run around other countries have much more recess and the students do far better than the United States of America
Destiny Newell	Chino Hills, CA	2016-03-24	Kids need recess! Healthy for body and mind!
jamie jewett	Providence, RI	2016-03-24	This is crucial. Look at the data. There is no question. Thank you.
Alden Bumstead	Providence, RI	2016-03-25	Do we even need research to tell us that kids need some time for free play in order to be better learners in a classroom setting? No, but we do have the research to tell us that. Why is this even an issue? I'm baffled.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
christine macdonald	North Providence, RI	2016-03-25	children need to exercise to help them focus on studying and stay healthy
Kaeli Sutton	Providence, RI	2016-04-02	We have exhaustive evidence that time outdoors and physical activity is essential to children's ability to regulate socially, and learn acadically. Twenty minutes recess is not even adequate, but is certainly better than nothing. How, as a society, can we rob our children of what is essential for heathy growth. As we do this, we rob our society's future. Please, please, please docwjstbisbrought for our children.
Kim McNiece	West Kingston, RI	2016-04-02	All children deserve AT LEAST 20 minutes of recess a day.
H. Yvette Koch, DAC	Providence, RI	2016-04-02	Children need fresh air and freedom of movement if they are expected to learn and become creative, independent thinkers. Please mandate non-instructional time in general, and meaningful recess in particular.
Machiste Rankin	Providence, RI	2016-04-02	I'm signing because I believe that this matter should be mandated. I believe that if this matter is left to the discretion of RIDE, it will not be properly enforced. Some members of the teacher's union are already attempting to establish a defense to NOT abide by the REQUEST for this play time. Already, arguments about weather conditions, or suitable outerwear are being used as excuses to keep children indoors. I can understand not bringing children outside during monsoon rains, but drizzle should not cancel recess. Thank you
Irena Mandel	Cumberland, RI	2016-04-02	Unstructured play is vital to the emotional and social development of our youngest citizens and Rhode Island's current regulations on free play are some of the strictest in the country. Our kids are suffering, my son is suffering with more energy than he knows what to do with while being forced to sit quietly and do directed work. He doesn't have behavioral issues - he lacks opportunity to use his energy.
Dyer Monroe	Providencde, RI	2016-04-03	children matter to me!
Jodi Kulinitch	Providence, RI	2016-04-03	I'm signing because unstructured free play & time spent in fresh air is 100% necessary for healthy childhood development. Let our children play!!!
Marissa St. Louis	Johnston, RI	2016-04-03	I'm signing because without recess and free play students cannot maintain attention and focus throughout the day. Positive play interactions build confidence and relationships which will enhance 21st century skills which are a primary focus for our schools.
Christy Chase	Providence, RI	2016-04-03	It's a no-brained that kids need recess. We've been fighting this ridiculous battle for many years - let's just use our common sense and make it happen.
Laura Kennedy	Foster, RI	2016-04-04	Physical activity and free play time is essential for learning and overall well being!
Justyna Stonge	Providence, RI	2016-04-04	Tec
O'rya Hyde-Keller	Pawtucket, RI	2016-04-04	Outside is the best place to learn. (And even 20 minutes a day isn't actually enough.)
Samantha Andersen	Pawtucket, RI	2016-04-04	As a parent and an educator I believe that nothing is more important in a child's day than the time s/he has to PLAY.
Peter Quesnel	Providence, RI	2016-04-04	As an educator, I know that kids need recess. I don't really need a study. It's common sense. And, it's the right thing to do.
Nancy M. Kennedyn	No. Scituate, RI	2016-04-05	This is important.
Jenny Williams	Portsmouth, RI	2016-04-05	Children need fresh air and to move through out their day. Sitting too long does not promote a healthy learning environment.
Andrea Wool	Providence, RI	2016-04-05	I am signing because all kids deserve time to move their bodies!
kelly sullivan	bristol, RI	2016-04-05	Recess helps children! Stop the nonsense and let them run and play.



Name	Location	Date	Comment
Melissa Clark	Middletown, RI	2016-04-05	Because I believe in the critical importance of free play, and that all students should have access to recess.
Kate Grotteberg	Newport, RI	2016-04-05	Because our children's mental and emotional well being depends on it.
Caitlin Caldwell	Warren, RI	2016-04-05	Recess is an integral part to our children's development and is needed for them to be successful learners.
Karin Moellering	Barrington, RI	2016-04-06	Recess is so crucial for kids to be able to concentrate and stay focused during class times. And it is the time they practice their social skills.
Kathleen O'Loughlin	Bristol, RI	2016-04-06	Our children need more time outside not less.
Lynda West	Portsmouth, RI	2016-04-06	I've noticed the difference when my kids get to 6th grade. that's when recess stops in our district. Keep recess!!
Caroline Ware Ware	Middletown, RI	2016-04-06	Children need to play for socialization and to support a healthy physical body. Play is just as important as learning from books and computers.
Michele Mericle	Lincoln, RI	2016-04-06	Because it's inhumane and pedagogically ridiculous not to give children breaks and movement during every day
christopher johnson	Providence, RI	2016-04-06	Recess arts and play is important to youth development
Jan Cal	Providence, RI	2016-04-07	Recess is vital
Jessica Stensrud	Pawtucket, RI	2016-04-07	All children need MAXIMUM recess
Brenda Medeiros	Warwick, RI	2016-04-07	I believe outdoor play is important for the healthy development of young children.
Megan Gallagher	Warwick, RI	2016-04-07	we are doing our children a disservice by eliminating free play and recess.
Kristin Rosler	Providence, RI	2016-04-08	Social skills, overall health are important to kids academic success and gained from recess /time outdoors!
Jodi Lyons	Hope, RI	2016-04-08	Kids need to have movement during the day. Personally I believe it should be 45 minutes of instruction and 15 of movement. Everyone would benefit!!!
lisa mencucci	WOONSOCKET, RI	2016-04-08	These are CHILDREN, they need to get fresh air, fun, stress relief from being in a classroom all day! PLEASE!
Julie Christina	Bristol, RI	2016-04-09	For the kids!
Melissa Bagga	Providence, RI	2016-04-09	Outdoor time is critical for development!
Donna Clarke	Bristol, RI	2016-04-09	Recess and free play make children better students.
Rita Pavolka	West Greenwich, WI	2016-04-09	My granddaughters need to have recess in their school curriculum.
Shoshana Landow	Cranston, RI	2016-04-10	it's a no brainer
Sabrina Witherby	Providence, RI	2016-04-10	As a physician and mother the evidence shows how important recess and exercise is for children, and as a Rhode Islander I know our state's children deserve better.
Tina Rizack	Providence, RI	2016-04-10	To not give children adequate recess is to not allow them to reach their full potential as learners.
Mary beth Carstensen	Pawtucket, RI	2016-04-10	Social time and non structured time for children are also Necessary components of a child's overall well being. Don't decrease or remove or use recess for anything other than what it should be- a time to play, run and break from the everyday stress.
Heather Johnson	barrington, RI	2016-04-11	My child is in school for six and a half hours per day. And gets homework for the one hour allowed before dinner time. Enough already. Recess is essential. The best schools in the world have the best, longest recess with actual, tangible objects to pick up and create and build with.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
JAE Mooradian	East Providence, RI	2016-04-11	I recall when school was school, art, penmanship, recess....we will end up homeschooling more & more. Start thinking of the kids.
Shannon Walker	Newport, RI	2016-04-12	Kids need to be outside as much as possible every day! 20 minutes is not enough.
Jennifer Reynolds Lial	Warren, RI	2016-04-12	I believe all children should have mandatory recess. More importantly my 5th grader, my 4th grader, and my kindergartener have all asked me to sign this to make sure their voices are heard too!
Kristen Beaudouin	New York, NY	2016-04-12	My cousin George Piper is an advocate for this cause and so am I!
Elizabeth Pagano	Bristol, RI	2016-04-12	My children deserve it.
Sherry Winn	Warren, RI	2016-04-12	Children need recess and more time for bring a kid. We can barely concentrate at work for 8 hours a day how can we expect 5 to 12 year olds too. Breaks are a necessity !
Trisha Minnella	Warren, RI	2016-04-12	Teacher
Sara Volino	warren, RI	2016-04-12	All children deserve time to play and be childlike.
Kristin Browne	Bristol, RI	2016-04-12	TOO MUCH WORK for kids. Not enough recess. NOT EVEN CLOSE!
Wendy Virgadamo	Bristol, RI	2016-04-12	I believe that students in Elementary grades need creative play time for social, physical, and intellectual growth.
daria champlin	Bristol, RI	2016-04-12	I support this need in all early childhood settings. I am an early childhood educator.
Linda Rimoshytus	Warren, RI	2016-04-12	Children can only benefit from more recess. The academic day is rigorous and they need this social time to be able to refocus for the afternoon sessions. Children learn social skills through play.
Kendra Cabral	Bristol, RI	2016-04-13	Children need free time to play to develop much needed social skills with their peers and to exercise and strengthen gross motor skills and coordination. The academic demands and time sitting "still" during the school day are not always age appropriate.
Nicole Oliveira	Riverside, RI	2016-04-19	Inmates have more than 20 min a day of time outdoors, I think our children should get free time to play during the school day, studies show it increase learning ( as studies have shown, recess and break times facilitate learning).
Cristina Pacheco	Seekonk, MA	2016-04-20	Im a physician and I believe outdoor physical activity is crucial to good health!
Hilal Minda	Providence, RI	2016-04-21	I am a mom of 8 year old who goes to 2nd grade in Providence. I ask him everyday about his school, classes and activities and I noticed that there is not enough time for kids to play, run and burn the energy they are building up in there bodies. They need that, we all need that. They have every right to have a fresh air in their small bodies to be recharged and focus. This will help in the classrooms. Please allow to have them 20 minutes resests. This is not much to ask!! Please!!!
Jessica Dugan	Warwick, RI	2016-04-26	Play is the best way for children to learn

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Sheri Chandler	North Scituate, RI	2016-04-27	I am signing this petition because my child's Developmental Pediatrician and I completely disagree with withholding recess. In fact, she mentioned the study in Texas which increased the amount of recess and improved children's academic performance. I asked her how teachers and administrations could be in their profession and not understand the way that children learn best, and their need for unstructured movement and play. Something has gone wrong, and needs to be corrected. Instead of common core and testing, Rhode Island should have taken a look at how an elementary child's school day experience affects their DEVELOPMENT and learning when play is removed. Look at our poor test scores. Please sit down with the pediatricians, family practice physicians and developmental pediatricians who can make recommendations that are age appropriate. Educators and school psychologists seem to need a refresher on basic behavioral psychology constructs and studies.
April Mello	East Providence, RI	2016-04-28	My kids need to get out and move around.all kids need to get out and move around.They need to let out there energy.
Lisa Doucette	RUMFORD, RI	2016-04-30	All children need to have recess time because it is essential to their development! They need recess time to socialize, unwind, & get rid of some pent up energy!
Callahan Silvia	Portsmouth, RI	2016-05-05	recess is so important for children
Carla Martin	Barrington, RI	2016-05-05	Kids need time to distress.
Frances Connolly	Portsmouth, RI	2016-05-05	I am signing because I homeschool my four children and know first hand the benefits of recess.