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Local Parent Group Makes The Case For Required Recess

By ELISABETH HARRISON (/PEOPLE/ELISABETH-HARRISON) • 5 HOURS AGO

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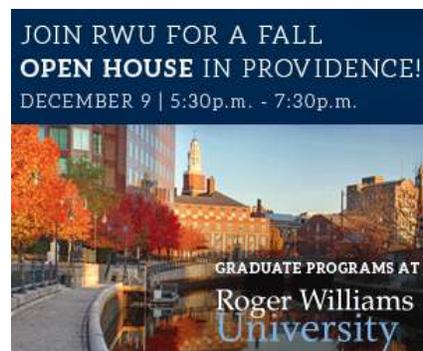
Some RI parents are pushing for required recess in schools.

ELISABETH HARRISON RIPR



A group of parents wants Rhode Island to require recess as part of the school day. The parents are organizing to make their case at a public hearing scheduled for Monday.

The group Parents Across Rhode Island has been urging members to attend a public hearing on proposed changes to the state rules that cover school calendars and the length of the school day. The rules set out a minimum five-and-a-half hours for class time and student instruction. The parents say it should also set a minimum for recess. The group cites a survey that found the vast majority of elementary school students get just 10 to 20 minutes of recess per day. In some schools it was less than 10 minutes.



The parents say access to recess has been declining with the focus on tougher academics, and recess can vary widely from school to school.

Do you have insight or expertise on this topic? Please email us, we'd like to hear from you. news@ripr.org (<mailto:news@ripr.org>)

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When RIDE talks about educating the 'whole child' and wants the state the have a 'shared vision' for education, leaving recess out of the requirements for the school day gives us all pause. Seems like we are missing a huge piece of the pie when all the guidelines focus on with respect to how time is spent is hours for instructional time.

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