



Steve Bradshaw
District 4 Commissioner

DeKalb County Board of Commissioners

Manuel J. Maloof Center

December 12, 2023

Dear DeKalb County Board of Education,

I write to express my strong support for legislation you are considering authorizing the district to enter into an agreement with Trust for Public Land (TPL) to implement a Community Schoolyards Pilot Program.

Community Schoolyards improve academic performance, student mental health and community cohesion. Children spending time outdoors experience increased cognitive ability, reduced anxiety, and exhibit fewer behavioral challenges. People who live near parks and use them are generally happier, and know more of their neighbors, and have more friends. Community schoolyards can tangibly benefit students, their families, and the school community.

I enthusiastically support Community Schoolyards, and it is my intention to commit of \$150,000 in America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds from my DeKalb County Government ARP discretionary account to TPL to implement a Community Schoolyard at a school located within my legislative district 4. These funds would support a DeKalb County Community Schoolyards pilot program and allow you the opportunity to measure their impact on your students and our community.

Trust for Public Land has more than 20 years' experience partnering with school districts to build nearly 300 Community Schoolyards across the country, including seven in the City of Atlanta. They recently have expanded their work into Fulton County, and I hope that the DeKalb County School District will partner with TPL. I am advocating for a Community School program in DeKalb and my financial commitment is a testament of my solid support.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope that we will be able to work together on this common-sense, transformative program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions.

Sincerely,

Steve Bradshaw
DeKalb County District 4

For A Better DeKalb

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