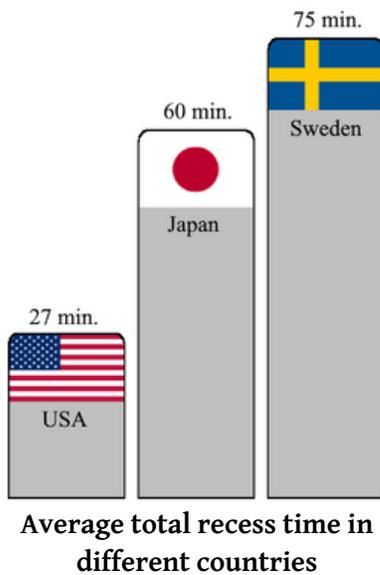


SHOULD TEACHERS BE ALLOWED TO TAKE AWAY RECESS?

As your friends cheer and line up for recess, the teacher pulls you aside. You didn't get your homework done, so you have to stay inside and work while everyone else plays. Is that even fair? Over 77% of teachers in the United States have denied recess as a punishment! Some people view recess as a privilege, arguing that it can be taken away to correct behavior or address low grades. Others argue that recess is too important for kids to miss. So, many wonder: Is recess a privilege or a right? Should teachers be able to take away recess?



What do you think?

Does playing with friends after school provide the same benefits as recess?

How else might a teacher correct misbehavior or help kids struggling with schoolwork?



By: Kyle Young

YES, RECESS IS A PRIVILEGE

Since most students look forward to recess, taking it away as a punishment--or threatening to do so--can be an effective way to motivate them to behave and perform well. Some teachers feel that they don't have many other options to address misbehavior in their classrooms. Additionally, recess provides a time where teachers can work closely with struggling students, helping them catch up on their schoolwork so they don't fall behind their classmates. Ultimately, when they are at school, kids should focus on learning. If they really want to play, they should find time to play with friends before or after school.

NO, RECESS IS A RIGHT

Recess is too valuable for students to be taken away. It improves fitness, helping kids get the recommended 60 minutes of exercise per day. Additionally, playing games at recess helps build social and emotional skills. Kids can become better at working together and noticing how their friends are feeling. Lastly, recess can even help improve students' schoolwork! By taking a break from classwork, the kids can return to class with renewed focus and productivity. Denying recess as a punishment would go against all these benefits, potentially worsening the behavior that the punishment was originally supposed to correct.