

# Organizing Communities of Color for Policies that Promote Prevention

**Marty Martinez, MPP**  
**Policy Director**



California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

# ***CPEHN: Together we're stronger***

- Ethnic organizations join together
  - Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
  - California Black Health Network
  - California Rural Indian Health Board
  - Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

# ***Eliminating health disparities***

- Improving Access to Health Care
- Advocating for Cultural and Linguistic Competency
- Promoting Data and Research
- Addressing the Social and Environmental Determinants of Health Disparities

# Children who are overweight

- Almost 29% of African American children are overweight.
- Almost 18% of Asian children are overweight.
- Over 35% of Latino children are overweight.
- Almost 32% of Native American and Alaska Native children are overweight.
- Almost 36% of Pacific Islander children are overweight, more than any racial/ethnic group.
- Over 20% of white children are overweight.

**Source: The Growing Epidemic: Child Overweight Rates on the Rise in California Assembly Districts, California Center for Public Health Advocacy**

# Organizing Communities of Color for Policy Change

- Community Convenings
- Joint Use prioritized
- Convened experts August 2008

# Policy Options

CPEHN convening participants identified **four policy options** for advancing joint use statewide:

- Mandating prioritization of high need communities.
- Including joint use in existing policies.
- Defining a minimum standard ratio of open space to population, including standards for ensuring access.
- Increasing flexibility of existing funding.

# Follow-up

- Pursued legislation
- Prioritized existing legislation, AB 346 (Torlakson)

# AB 346 Offers Flexibility

- Under the School Facility Program (SFP), a school district may receive a grant to fund a joint-use project if the district complies with specified requirements.

# How AB 346 Expands Joint-Use #1

- **Problem in existing law:** Funds must be used to reconfigure or construct school buildings to provide a multipurpose room, gymnasium, library, childcare facility, or teacher education facility.
- **Solution provided by AB 346 (Torlakson):** Expands the types of projects eligible for joint-use bond funds to include school health centers, career technical buildings, school health facilities, science and technology laboratories, performing arts center, science centers, historical or cultural education centers, physical education, and outdoor recreation site development.

# How AB 346 Expands Joint-Use #2

- **Problem in existing law:** New joint-use facility must be on a school site.
- **Solution provided by AB 346 (Torlakson):** Allows facilities to be *adjacent to*, as well as on, school grounds.

# How AB 346 Expands Joint-Use #3

- **Problem in existing law:** Under existing law, a school district must enter into a joint-use agreement with a governmental agency, public community college, public college or public university or a nonprofit organization to construct a joint-use facility on a school site. The total number of partners can't be more than two.
- **Solution provided by AB 346 (Torlakson):** Authorizes a school district to enter into a joint-use agreement with a combination of existing authorized entities.

# How AB 346 Expands Joint-Use #4

- **Problem in existing law:** The two joint-use school partners must through combined efforts contribute 50% of the costs of building the new facility. Joint-use partners must contribute hard dollars for their share of the costs.
- **Solution provided by AB 346 (Torlakson):** Expands the allowable contribution by a joint-use partner to include the value of land or real property, as well as equipment, consumable materials, and personnel.

# How AB 346 Expands Joint-Use #5

- **Problem in existing law:** Each of the two joint-use partners must contribute 25% of the costs.
- **Solution provided by AB 346 (Torlakson):** Authorizes less than a 25% contribution by any joint-use partner if an agreement has been reached among the partners for a lower contribution.

# How AB 346 Expands Joint-Use #6

- **Problem in existing law:** Law vague around public access to the newly created joint-use facilities.
- **Solution provided by AB 346 (Torlakson):** Specifies that a facility created by the joint-use agreement shall be a public facility with access to the facility guaranteed for public use.

# CPEHN

## Contact us

- (510) 832-1160
- [mmartinez@cpehn.org](mailto:mmartinez@cpehn.org)
- [www.cpehn.org](http://www.cpehn.org)