

September 12, 2016

Mr. Andrew O. Moore  
Director, Youth & Young Adult Connections  
Institute for Youth, Education, and Families  
National League of Cities  
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 550  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Moore,

I am writing to express my support for the City of Austin's Cities Connecting Children to Nature Implementation Plan. As an organization that supports out of school time learning experiences, Learn All the Time believes in the importance of healthy choices for children which includes abundant and equitable access to nature.

The extensive research and highly collaborative strategic planning process conducted by the Core Planning Team and six Working Groups ensures that children's equitable access to nature will a top priority for the City of Austin and our partners. With representatives from the City of Austin, health, education and non-profit sectors this initiative helped build and strengthen relationships across departments and sectors that had not existed previously.

I firmly believe that these partnerships and the collaborative efforts of the plan will help Austin achieve these long-term outcomes:

1. Every child has abundant & equitable access to nature at their home, neighborhood & school.
2. Every parent, health professional & teacher knows & understands the importance of access to nature for a child's healthy development. And every child considers outdoor play a top option for free time.
3. City codes & school curriculum are designed to allow & encourage kids to play outside in nature more frequently.
4. Austin is seen as an innovator & leader in the Children in Nature Movement.
5. Kids Choose nature

With a focus on greening school yards and creating a new network of school parks, Austin will be able to provide daily access to rich nature environments for tens of thousands of students across the city and strengthen communities with access to new park space. We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to this burgeoning national movement and build a relationship within schools across the city.

Sincerely,



Allison Ivey  
Executive Director

