

**POLICY RELATING TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS**

**PLAYGROUND SAFETY**

Playgrounds, being a fundamental part of the childhood experience, should be safe havens for children.

**New playgrounds**

Any new playground shall be designed and installed under the supervision of professionals and certified as suitable for the age group who will be the primary users.

Designers must certify that their play structures meet all specifications for safety and for access as included in the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook for playground safety.

Existing playgrounds will be certified by professionals that they meet the same standards as those newly designed and installed by professionals.

**Security**

Playground equipment that is located on school property should be protected with an appropriate fence.

In addition to fencing, there shall be a sign that states that the playground is for the exclusive use of the school when school is in session. A sign indicating hours will be posted and those who use the playground after school do so at their own risk.

**Inspection and maintenance**

Inspection and maintenance of equipment and surfaces will be conducted at least four times per year with one occurring just prior to the opening of school each fall by school maintenance staff to ensure that the playground remains in good condition. The general maintenance checklist found in the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook for playground safety or a District-developed checklist will be used for the inspections. A copy of this inspection will be kept on file in the school office. Additional inspections, which do not require the checklist, may occur at the direction of the Superintendent.

If either playground equipment or playground conditions are identified through the inspection process to need maintenance or repair, the playground area will be closed until the repairs are made. A log will be kept of these repairs in the school office.

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***PLAYGROUND SAFETY (continued)***

All repairs and maintenance will be made in accordance with the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Handbook for playground safety recommendations for: surfacing, general hazards, deterioration of equipment, security of hardware, drainage, paint and general upkeep.

School maintenance staff will be trained in the maintenance and inspection of equipment and surfaces.

**Safety rules**

Each school will develop safety rules for the playground and review them with students annually.

**Age appropriateness of equipment**

Separate play areas will be provided for younger and older children so that children may play on equipment that is appropriate for their size, strength, and decision-making abilities.

**Accessibility**

Playgrounds will have reasonable accommodations so that all children, regardless of abilities, can be encouraged to develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually.

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