

SCOTLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Board Policy

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

School Facilities – Playground Equipment

The Board recognizes that playground equipment is an essential part of a complete school facility. Playgrounds allow children further exploration, in the context of play, to stretch their physical and intellectual abilities, social and emotional skills and to learn some basic principles that can be applied to life in the world. Playgrounds are defined as designated areas where stationary and manipulative play equipment is located to facilitate a child's physical, emotional, social and intellectual development.

All playground equipment, whether purchased by the District or donated by a community or school-related group, must be assessed and maintained regularly in terms of suitability for the age level to use the equipment in the school setting and for durability and possible health or safety hazards. Consideration shall also be given to potential hazards when the playground is unsupervised during non-school hours.

Any new equipment shall meet specifications for playground equipment and related play surfaces that meet the recommendations of the National Program for Playground Safety, the standards of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Americans with Disabilities Act. These specifications shall serve as criteria for the selection of playground equipment. Selection and installation of playground equipment shall be based upon safety and contribution to child development.

Legal Reference: Handbook for Public Playground Safety, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Publication No. 325

Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities, Sections 4.19 through 4.8.7, and Sections 7.4.3 and 7.4.4