

~~7115 — ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND DESIGN AND EQUIPMENT~~

~~The School District recognizes the needs of elementary schools to have playgrounds that are designed to be physically suitable and safe for the age and use of the students. Use of playgrounds is allowed during the school day and during non-school periods. The use of the playgrounds are intended for both recreation, physical education, and motor skill development. The School District recognizes the fact that no laws presently exist that control or legally determine the exact requirement of playgrounds. The Business Services Committee will approve the material and application specifications of all surfacing and equipment for playgrounds.~~

~~1. Layout and Design~~

~~—a. Separate and physically remote areas shall be provided for:~~

- ~~(1) running, dodging, throwing, and walking activities~~
- ~~(2) climbing, swinging, sliding or in-place play activities~~

~~—b. Playground apparatus shall be located remote of other playground activities and separated by markings, space, or physical barriers when possible.~~

~~—c. Special considerations shall be made regarding the ability to supervise or observe both activities from a single location. Equipment shall be arranged to accommodate the traffic of children using the equipment and those using adjacent apparatus. When possible, single multiple use apparatus will be used.~~

~~—d. Barriers such as surface separating/containment beams shall not be positioned to represent a bump, fall, or trip hazard.~~

~~2. Apparatus and Equipment~~

~~All playground equipment shall be selected to provide the safest environment possible.~~

~~a. Height~~

~~(1) Apparatus shall not place a student's feet more than six (6) feet above the surface the apparatus is mounted on. This generally limits all equipment to a maximum height from the ground to the top usable platform to six (6) feet. No exceptions will be made to allow for intermediate platforms or multi-level climbers with six (6) foot increments.~~

~~(2) Swings shall not exceed eight (8) feet when measured from the top rail (anchoring the chains) to the surface.~~

~~b. Construction~~

~~(1) Climbing Apparatus~~

~~Rungs of horizontal ladders, climbing bars, handrails, and other components shall be cylindrical and approximately 1 5/8 inches in diameter to allow for secure gripping of all students.~~

~~(2) The use of large wooden structures shall not be allowed.~~

~~Wooden apparatus now in use will be replaced when worn out. Maintenance, size of hand holds, and surface connection points are not as acceptable as metal and vinyl covered apparatus.~~

~~(3) All equipment shall meet U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission Guidelines.~~

~~(4) Special equipment not allowed:~~

~~(a) Merry Go Rounds.~~

~~(b) Fixed/ground mounted animal rockers, single student use apparatus, etc.~~

~~(c) Tricking bars remote of or not part of a multiple use piece of apparatus.~~

- ~~(d) Equipment with steps, ladders, or stairways having a slope of greater than 35 degrees.~~
- ~~(e) Basketball hoops having metal chain vs. cloth fabric attached.~~
- ~~(f) Swing seats of wood or metal construction that present impact injuries when unoccupied.~~
- ~~(g) Platform apparatus that encourages jumping from heights of more than three (3) feet.~~
- ~~(h) All equipment that would be rendered unusable or become a trip/fall hazard when buried in one (1) foot of snow/ice.~~
- ~~(i) Open S hooks that would release chains or equipment held by them if stressed or twisted.~~
- ~~(j) Any above-ground protrusions resulting from anchoring devices/concrete rising due to frost.~~
- ~~(k) Any other equipment not approved by the Business Services Committee.~~

~~3. Surfacing~~

~~a. Running, throwing, ball playing and areas unoccupied by apparatus:~~

- ~~(1) Asphalt shall be appropriate for running and painted surface games areas.~~
- ~~(2) Grass shall be allowed for ball fields, soccer, running, and contact game areas.~~
- ~~(3) Surfacing other than under or around apparatus shall be considered generally appropriate if safety conditions or existing school conditions do not present unusual falling/tripping potential or special hazards (i.e., rocks protruding from ground, fence posts, building hazards, etc., that cannot be eliminated).~~

~~b. Under climbing apparatus and swings~~

~~(1) Unacceptable surfaces:~~

- ~~(a) Asphalt~~
- ~~(b) Concrete~~
- ~~(c) Dirt~~
- ~~(d) Grass~~
- ~~(e) Gravel~~
- ~~(f) Any material not meeting U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission guidelines for adequate fall protection.~~

~~(2) Preferred surfaces:~~

- ~~(a) Rubber like/resilient surfacing that by manufacturing specifications provides adequate U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission fall protection from ten (10) feet.~~
- ~~(b) Pea gravel/pea rock to a minimum depth of eight (8) inches.~~
- ~~(c) Sand to a minimum depth of ten (10) inches.~~
- ~~(d) Loose fill materials that meet U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission guidelines to provide fall protection from ten (10) feet.~~

~~c. Containment Structures for Under Apparatus Surfacing~~

~~Loose fill materials when used shall be installed with drainage and containment structures that do not present fall/trip or bump hazards. When possible, solid barriers shall be erected or space provided to prevent spillage of materials into adjacent play areas of a different surface.~~

~~Reference: United States Consumer Products Safety Commission,~~

~~Volume I: General Guidelines for New and Existing Playgrounds, 1981~~

~~Adopted: 11-10-1987 ISD 709~~