

Surfaces

All playground equipment to be installed either temporarily or permanently on a school site shall be reviewed by a committee appointed by the Superintendent comprised of the principal of the school site, the maintenance supervisor, a physical education teacher, two parents, a representative from the school health advisory committee and a representative from the current insurance carrier.

The following are guidelines for selection and installation of all playground equipment. Existing and all new equipment shall comply with the following guidelines.

1. Equipment must meet the safety criteria listed below:
 - a. All playground equipment must have as an immediate ground surface a surface which will limit impact from a fall according to Appendices A and B attached. The safety surface must extend to the maximum distance to which a fall could occur.
 - b. Equipment is to be placed so as to take advantage of topography of surrounding terrain plat development and far enough apart so that there will be a disbursement of children allowing safe, free movement and the least possible congestion.
 - c. All equipment is to be free from hazardous protrusions, points and sharp edges.
 - d. Exposed component materials are to be rust-free, clean and durable to use and weather with a minimum amount of splintering, flaking or other deterioration. Lead paint and creosote shall not be used.
 - e. Equipment that is low to the ground and with a six (6) foot maximum vertical limit is preferred.
 - f. All moving parts are to be concealed and be designed to minimize chance from pinching or catching of clothing or of body.
 - g. All equipment must be securely anchored according to manufacturer's recommendations and installed by manufacturer or his/her authorized representative.
2. Equipment should require a minimum of maintenance, specifically for replacement of parts and painting.

3. Equipment should be aesthetically appealing for its environment.
4. The equipment should be appealing to children.
5. The equipment should encourage active, creative use.
6. The installation of homemade equipment is discouraged. Before the acceptance of any such equipment, the design and materials are to be reviewed by an individual such as an architect or engineer who is qualified to assess the structural soundness of the equipment.
7. Equipment should be difficult to vandalize.
8. Unpadded cement or steel stationary poles should not be in areas intended for running games.

The maintenance supervisor shall receive and process for and to the committee all requests for equipment. He/she shall also coordinate installation of approved equipment with the school principal.

APPENDIX A

CRITERIA - PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT - FOR GUIDANCE IN SELECTION OF
GROUND SURFACE UNDER PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

1. Should have durability under the extremes of sunlight, temperature, moisture condition, smog and heavy use.
2. Should remain in place under normal conditions of use.
3. Should be abrasion-resistant yet provide sufficient surface friction to avoid slipping.
4. Should not harbor insects or small rodents.
5. Should not harbor disease-producing micro-organisms.
6. Should be economical in overall cost when considering purchase price, maintenance and replacement over a reasonable life span.
7. All playground equipment must have as an immediate ground surface a surface which will limit impact from a fall to an average value of 50 GS. (See Appendix B.)

APPENDIX B

FOR GUIDANCE IN SELECTION OF GROUND SURFACE MATERIALS

Under playground equipment - see guideline No. 1a. for selection and installation of playground equipment.

Surface Material	Drop Height in Feet - Criteria No. 1							
	.25	.5	1	2	3.5	4	8	10.5
Concrete	150-200	250-300	475-525					
Thin Mat***	60-80	125-150	275-300					
Asphalt	40-45	60-65	140-160					
Packed Earth						175-225		
Gym Mat #1				8-12		55-70		
Gym Mat #2			1-2	4-5		170-190		
Rubber Mat (1-1/8" thick)			3-5	6-15		40-55		
Double Rubber Mat			1	2-15	24-28		50-58	7-80
Sand (10: deep)**							10-13	15-20
Pea Gravel #1 (8"deep)*				10-15	10-20		15-40	20-50
Pea Gravel #5 (8"deep)*				10-75	10-20		15-30	25-40
Wood Chips (12" deep)					15-20		30-25	42-48

* Rounded, river washed, up to 3/8" diameter.

** Wet, firmly packed sand.

*** Corrugated rubber mat, 1/8" thick with 1/16" vinyl cover

Table 1

Impact of Head Simulator with Surface material in Accordance
With ASTM F-355-72. Values are in Average Gs.

MONTHLY PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE SAFETY CHECKLIST

The following shall serve as guidelines for monthly inspection of all playground equipment. Any problems should be reported immediately so that proper measures can be taken for repairs:

Item	Look for
Structure	Bending, warping, cracking, loosening, breaking, etc.
Surface Finish	No protective coating, rust, other corrosion, cracks, splinters, checking, harmful preservatives or points, etc.
Hardware	Missing, bent, broken, loosened, open hooks, etc.
Edges	Sharp points or edges, protruding bolts or other protrusions, etc.
Pinch or Crush Points	Exposed mechanisms, junctures of moving components, etc.
Mechanical Devices and Other Moving Parts	Worn bearings, lubrication needed, missing protective covers, etc.
Guard or Hand Rails	Missing, bent, broken, loosened, etc.
Ladders and steps	Missing rungs or steps, broken, loosened, etc.
Swing Seats	Missing, damaged, loosened, sharp corners, etc.
Footings	Exposed, cracked, loose in ground, etc.
Protective Surfacing Under Equipment	Compacted, displaced to ineffective level, doesn't extend to potential impact area, unsanitary, poor drainage, etc.

Implemented:

May 5, 1986

North Thurston School District

