

PLAYGROUNDS

Background

The construction of playgrounds and the installation of playground equipment on school grounds by community groups will be permitted.

Information and direction must be provided to schools and community groups who wish to improve school playground facilities.

Definitions

A “**community group**” is a parent advisory council, community association or any other recognized group.

Procedures

1. The prime consideration for the equipment and structures of playgrounds is the safety of children.
2. The community group shall work with the school principal on any playground project located on school property.
3. The Secretary Treasurer, or designate, shall approve the location of playgrounds and equipment on school grounds.
4. Plans, structures and equipment specifications shall be submitted to the Secretary Treasurer, or designate, for approval prior to any work proceeding.
5. It will be the responsibility of the community group to locate all underground services. Before any digging, all utility companies, such as B.C. Hydro, Telus, B.C. Gas, cablevision, etc. should be contacted to mark out their respective lines.
6. All equipment purchased will conform to the most current CSA standards.
7. All equipment shall be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.
8. All play areas shall have adequate impact-resistant surfacing materials.
9. A risk survey will be conducted upon completion of the project. All costs associated with the survey will be borne by the community group. The results of this survey will be forwarded to the community group, which will be responsible for implementing any recommendations before the completed structure is accepted by the school district.
10. All playground equipment shall have documented inspection, repair and upgrade programs determined by the school principal and a representative of the Facility Services Department on a regular basis.

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11. All playgrounds shall have appropriate signage regarding unsupervised use outside of school hours.
12. Decisions to remove equipment will be made by the Secretary Treasurer or designate, after consultation with the principal.
13. The purchase and installation costs of playground equipment shall be borne by community groups.
14. New playgrounds and expansions or alterations to existing playgrounds must be approved by the Board of Education.
15. Signed approval by the Secretary Treasurer, or designate, is required on a site plan, showing the exact location of the proposed play structure, before any site preparation takes place. Proper site plans can be obtained from the Facility Services Department.
16. The community group will be responsible for all costs for the project including site clearing, site clean-up after construction, fees associated with the risk survey referred to in Procedure 9 and all costs associated with the implementation of the recommendations of the risk survey. A protective fence may be required around the work site while construction is underway if so directed by the Secretary Treasurer or designate.
17. Once the Board of Education approves a playground structure on School District No. 57 property, it will be maintained by the property maintenance department
18. In the event that playground equipment is worn out, unsafe and beyond economical repair, the school principal will be advised and the community group will be given an opportunity to either upgrade or replace the equipment.

Reference: *School Act, Sections 74 and 85*