



POLICY – 406

School Playground Equipment

Area: Operations

Source: Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities Services

Approved: January 5, 1998

Revised: November 9, 2015; September 11, 2023

1. Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board (the “Board”) recognizes the need to promote positive play experiences in a safe school environment. As such, all school playground equipment currently located or to be installed on school sites must meet Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Z614 Standard for Children’s Playground Equipment and Surfacing and are inspected and maintained to appropriate safety levels.

2. Definitions

Nil

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that consistent procedures and practices are undertaken when planning to install outdoor playground equipment.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all school sites and all school playground equipment whether provided by the Board as part of a capital project or purchased by a school community and donated to the Board as part of a local school initiative.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board of Trustees:

5.1.1 recognizes the inherent value of outdoor play and the use of playground equipment to support the physical, emotional and spiritual development of children.

- 5.1.2 recognizes that the public and school community are generally supportive of the provision of playground equipment on municipal parks and school sites.
- 5.1.3 as a responsible community partner, supports the public use of school playgrounds and playground equipment outside of regular school hours and regular school days.
- 5.1.4 recognizes its responsibility to maintain a safe play environment and appropriate levels of liability coverage.
- 5.1.5 plans and provides certain types of basic playground facilities and equipment as part of new school construction and other capital projects.
- 5.1.6 permits school community groups and other agencies, with approval, to purchase and install certain supplementary playground equipment on its school sites according to a specific set of procedures and conditions.
- 5.1.7 assumes the responsibility for maintenance and repair of playground equipment. As such, all donated playground equipment becomes the sole property of the Board.
- 5.1.8 reserves the right, in the case of any playground equipment, donated or otherwise, to remove, relocate or dispose of such playground equipment in the event of safety, accommodation or other reasonable concerns.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education, or designate, shall issue administrative procedures attendant to this policy and amend them thereafter as the need may arise.
- 6.2 The Director of Education, or designate, shall ensure that:
 - 6.2.1 the purchase and installation of all school playground equipment meet the current CSA Z614 standards;
 - 6.2.2 any playground equipment purchased or donated by third parties are approved by Board staff;
 - 6.2.3 a program of safety inspections as outlined by CSA Z614 is established and implemented;
 - 6.2.4 any decisions resulting from inspections related to repair versus replacement or removal include consultation with the principal and the school community;
 - 6.2.5 appropriate levels of liability insurance are maintained to address the potential accidents that may occur on Board property; and
 - 6.2.6 specific procedures are established to facilitate approval of proposals from school community groups and other agencies wishing to donate and/or share in

the costs of purchases and installation of school playground equipment beyond the basic equipment provided by the Board.

7. Sources

- 7.1 [Education Act](#)
- 7.2 [CAN/CSA Z614-07 Children's Playspaces and Equipment](#)

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 [Purchasing of Goods and Services Policy \(PO102\)](#)
- 8.2 [Approval of Proposals for the Purchase and Installation of School Playground Equipment \(AP406-1\)](#)
- 8.3 [Safety Inspection Program for School Playground Equipment \(AP406-2\)](#)