PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT REVIEW

Student Support & Services Committee
Wednesday, October 4, 2017
Playgrounds

• Play area designs are generally organized for age appropriateness, open to the public, elementary environments (Ages 2-5, 6-12).
• The primarily focused is ensuring the safety for children at play.
• Playground equipment is intended for use by students during recess.
• Playground equipment is not intended for use during physical education classes, and, therefore, is not considered part of the instructional program.
• Playground equipment is accepted for inclusion with the consideration given to unsupervised non-school hour use by the community.
Playground Equipment Safety Standard Resources


Equipment Sources of Playground Injuries

• The types of playground **equipment frequently involved** in school playground and recess injuries are:
  • Bars
  • Climbing Apparatus
  • Slides
  • Balls
  • Non-Play Equipment (such as poles/posts)

  • LCPS severe playground injuries, and claims involving falls from equipment causing head injuries and limb fractures.
Playground Injuries – Nationally and in Loudoun County Public Schools

Playground Injuries Nationally

- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates over 200,000 emergency room-treated injuries annually.
- Falls are the most common hazard.
- Equipment-related hazards, such as breakage, tip-over, design, and assembly also occur.

Loudoun County Public Schools Playground and Recess Injuries

- 59 reported injuries on LCPS playgrounds this calendar year (2017).
- 24 reported injuries were from falls.
  - Including 14 fractures.
Sample: Approved Standard and Inclusive Playground Design Elements
Explorer Dome – New Offering

- Total Height 13’ 4”
- Fall Height 9’ 10”
Explorer Dome Equipment - Adoption Concerns:

- The manufacturer’s data sheet shows the fall height at 9’ 10”.
  - Total height of equipment is 13’4”.
- The “LCPS Playground and Recess Safety Guidelines” state the maximum fall height allowed by LCPS is 7’.
  - This standard is taken from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- Impact Attenuation Test (Head Injury Criteria)
  - US Consumer Product Safety Commission does provide criteria to increase the fall height based upon mulch depth.
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