

CREATIVE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The Albemarle County School Board recognizes the value of having appropriate playground equipment located in school playgrounds and recognizes the value of community participation in the development of these creative playgrounds. Creative playground equipment may be defined as any combination of homemade or purchased equipment to be installed on the playground site.

Since the school playground is a part of the community, the development of the playground has to be a community effort. Parents, teachers, and pupils can be expected to contribute to the planning and development of an active outdoor learning environment that is safe and fulfills the needs of both the community and the school. The creative playground must be developed in accordance with the procedures and guidelines established by the Board and as amended from time to time.

Before installation, a building permit and subsequent inspections must be obtained from the Albemarle County Zoning and Inspections Departments for all new playground equipment. When equipment is installed on Board property, the Board assumes ownership of that equipment unless specifically stated otherwise by agreement. For this reason, the maintenance of the playground equipment installed by a School or Community Group will be the responsibility of the Board.

Once equipment is installed on Board property, the principal of the school will have the responsibility to inspect the equipment on a regular basis, not less than monthly, and the authority, in his sole opinion, if such equipment is unsafe in any way, to order its repair or removal from the school property. The principal may also restrict or deny the use of such equipment until such time, in his sole opinion, that it is restored to safe condition.

The Board, under the direction of the Director of Building Services, will perform or have performed an inspection of all playground equipment, not less than annually, to ensure the safe and proper condition of the equipment. If as a result of any such inspection(s) or as a result of items brought to the attention of the Board, any repairs or removal of any equipment is deemed necessary in the sole opinion of the Director of Building Services, then the Board will perform or have performed the necessary repairs or removal.

The Board maintains the sole right to repair and maintain the equipment at a level deemed acceptable by the Board. It also has the right to remove such equipment from operation at the playground if, in its opinion, the equipment is deemed unsafe and/or too expensive to maintain in operation.

The school Committee or Parent Association will sign an agreement as to its awareness of the Board's Policy and Regulations on Playground Development and its willingness to adhere to these conditions.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
Amended: May 12, 2005

| Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, sections 22.1-78, 22.1-79(3), ~~22.1-88~~, 22.1-293(B)

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Guidelines and Regulations

- I. Where the school community expresses an interest in developing a creative playground, it is the responsibility of the principal of the school to notify the Superintendent of the school's interest. The principal will act as the school's major resource person for the duration of the project.
- II. The Superintendent or his designee will review the principal's request and assign a Physical Educator to act as the systems resource personnel for the school's project.
- III. The principal will prepare a proposal in cooperation with the school community and a Physical Educator incorporating the following guidelines:
 - A. The structures must be closely related to the existing site.
 - B. The structures will not interfere with the large open-space play areas.
 - C. The structures are designed to elicit a wide variety of responses and appeal to the children's sense of creativity.
 - D. The structures have a variable environment in terms of texture, levels, and heights as a means of providing for individual differences.
 - E. Opportunities exist for pupils to be self-testing and for self-initiated competition in the structures.
 - F. Manipulation of equipment by children is possible.
 - G. The structures provide for both individual and group activity.
- IV. The principal will be responsible for designating time limits within the context of the proposal leading to a proposed completion date and shall present initial drafts of the community plans to Director of Building Services.
- V. The Director of Building Services will rule on the feasibility of the project following the principal's presentation. If the ruling is unfavorable, an appeal may be submitted to the Superintendent or his designee.

A proposal will show the following:

- A. a detailed plan with specific structures and locations;
- B. materials to be employed and sources;

- C. schedule of construction;
- D. labor arrangements; and
- E. full costing particulars, including community contributions and sources plus any proposed Board contribution.

The Director of Building Services will forward the proposal to the Superintendent or his designee for approval of the Board when he is satisfied that the proposal meets all Board requirements.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
Reviewed: May 12, 2005
