

PLAN REVIEW	
<i>Reviewer</i>	<i>Date</i>
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PLAYGROUND SAFETY PLAN

PURPOSE

The following plan has been developed as a guide for the implementation of and compliance with ASTM F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use. The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) published its playground safety standard in response to playground injuries reported by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The standard is intended to reduce the potential for injuries in playground areas. The plan is to provide written guidelines for an effective playground safety program and to increase the safety for children using the playground for Nicollet Public Schools.

GOALS

1. Reduce playground area safety hazards.
2. Provide checklists and training for staff to perform routine safety inspections.
3. Increase the protection of individuals using the playground facilities.
4. Maintain appropriate documents of training, inspections, and accidents.

POLICY

It is the goal of the district to provide and maintain safer parks and facilities for the public. In order to meet this goal, the district has developed standard operating procedures to help maintain their facilities and protect the users. These procedures will not eliminate risk, but will make all attempts to reduce hazards and injuries. District personnel will follow the following guidelines:

1. Manufacturers' specifications shall be followed when installing all equipment.
2. The district shall provide adequate resources for maintenance, repairs, and inspections.
3. Inspections, repairs, and maintenance done by trained employees shall be documented and in accordance with current standards.
4. All accidents shall be documented and retained for future reference.



TRAINING

To ensure proper and consistent inspections and maintenance, training sessions for staff involved in the playground safety program are conducted. The training includes current standards and guidelines put forth by the CPSC and ASTM. Staff or consultants who perform the playground audits and monthly inspections are Certified Playground Safety Inspectors (CPSI's) as authorized by the National Playground Safety Institute while the staff responsible for the weekly inspections are trained in the playground safety plan. All training is documented and retained by the school district.

ACCIDENTS/INJURIES

The purpose of the Playground Safety Management Plan is to reduce playground accidents and injuries and provide the safest environment possible. When accidents occur, it is necessary to document the nature of the accident to determine its cause, obtain a site report, witness documentation, and any repairs made to the equipment.

AUDITS/INSPECTIONS

Audits and inspections are an important part of the playground safety management plan. In order to reduce the number of injuries on the playground, the district must inspect the playground environment to identify hazards based on ASTM and CPSC standards.

1. The safety AUDIT is a one-time initial inspection that performs an in-depth analysis of the playground in its entirety. It helps to prioritize repair or removal of equipment and will assist in the development of a long-term strategy for playground safety. The Department of Education requires the audit to be performed by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector in order to use and maintain health and safety funding.
2. Safety inspections are done routinely as a method of preventive maintenance. The two types of inspections are monthly and weekly.
 - A) The monthly inspection is more in-depth and includes a comprehensive look at the entire playground and its equipment.
 - B) The weekly inspection is a quick once-over to locate any immediate playground hazards such as vandalism, broken glass, broken equipment, or surface issues.

**** All audit and inspection forms will be completed and retained in the PLAYGROUND SAFETY file or CUSTODIAL MANUAL. Contact the Play Ground Contact Person or Advanced Health, Safety and Security for more information.

