

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

When any playground equipment is installed on Alexandria City School 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 will be the responsibility of the Board.

Once installed on Board property, the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) will have the responsibility to inspect the equipment on a regular basis, not less than annually, and the authority to order its repair or removal from the school property if the equipment is unsafe in any way. The ACPS Facilities and Operations Department may also restrict or deny the use of such equipment until such time as it is restored to safe condition.

Playground equipment is part of the school’s outdoor learning environment. When designing playground equipment, consideration should be given to how the equipment supports equitable access and classroom learning.

Adopted: October 24, 1996
Amended: September 8, 2005
Amended: June 11, 2015

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

Guidelines for School Facilities in Virginia’s Public Schools (Virginia Department of Education, September 2013).

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

When any playground equipment is installed on Alexandria City School 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 School Board.

Once installed on School Board property, the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Educational Facilities Department of Facilities and Operations will have the responsibility to inspect the equipment on a regular basis, not less than annually, and the authority to order its repair or removal from the school property if the equipment is unsafe in any way. The ACPS Facilities and Operations Department may also restrict or deny the use of such equipment until such time as it is restored to safe condition.

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Commented [1]: I think this policy needs a values statement, which I can work on. There has definitely been equity concerns raised regarding playground equipment and access that we should address here. The main issues that have come up have been around (1) wealthy PTAs raising funds to upgrade playground equipment, and (2) lack of before/after school playground access for families at FTDay school. The facilities team is currently conducting a division-wide playground assessment.

Commented [2R1]: @michelle.rief@acps.k12.va.us Are you ready with the value statement for playground equipment?

Commented [3]: I recommend removing community group, as install of playground equipment should really be under the sole purview of the school division. Mainly from a financial standpoint, most community groups will not provide the necessary funding for annual inspection and upkeep of equipment.

Commented [MS4]: Added per the VSBA model policy and the need for equity.