

PLAYGROUNDS

Background

Playgrounds are a necessary component in facilitating the physical development and general well-being of students.

The Division will develop and maintain playgrounds that are safe, that lend themselves to creative and multi-functional use and that are as attractive as current budgets allow.

Procedures

1. For safety purposes, playgrounds are to be level, rock free, grassed, fenced from danger such as posed by busy roadways, muskegs, bodies of water, etc.
2. Because of budgetary constraints, playground development decisions must be based upon what is necessary and adequate for the educational programs and instructional services of clientele.

With this in mind, the Division will attempt to provide for the widest range of needs and interests of its students.

3. In order to benefit and to motivate the greatest number of students, the ideal playground is to be multifunctional. It is to contain areas to accommodate ball diamonds, soccer/football fields, running tracks, track and field activities, outdoor skating, as well as quiet treed areas ideal for reading. These ideal playgrounds are to be equipped with creative structures that lend themselves to free and unstructured play that complies with Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Guidelines.
4. Playgrounds are to have areas set aside for bike racks, hard surface areas for "sidewalk games" and storage sheds for balls, bats and other outdoor play equipment.
5. Equipment

Playgrounds are to be equipped to acceptable standards, based on student populations and within current budget levels, and are to be maintained to the highest degree of safety possible.

- 5.1 The Facilities Department shall develop standards for review and approval on a yearly basis and shall recommend funding levels to achieve the approved standards to upgrade and maintain playgrounds.
- 5.2 The Division shall encourage cooperation between communities and School Community Councils to supply equipment and maintain playgrounds.
6. Grounds Keeping

The Division's long-term goal is to provide playground areas that are safe, attractive and contribute to the development of a variety of uses.

- 6.1 Playground areas are to be level, rock free, grassed, fenced and maintained as per standards reviewed and approved by the Division.
- 6.2 Schools will be provided equipment for the work based on yearly approved budget.
- 6.3 The Division will encourage sharing of responsibility to maintain grounds with Hamlet, Village and Town Councils either through shared use or contracted services to reduce costs of equipment and manpower.
- 6.4 The Division will provide safe and secure storage for all grounds keeping equipment.

Reference: Sections 85, 87, 108, 109, 110, 343 Education Act
CSA Standards