

Buncombe County Schools
Playground Construction and Alteration Procedures

Revised June 22, 2009

I. Policy and Protocol

This policy applies to new playgrounds, new equipment, as well as relocated or altered equipment, surfaces and borders installed on Buncombe County Schools' property.

Buncombe County Schools adheres to the current (CPSC) Consumer Products Safety Commission) and ASTM guidelines for playgrounds and equipment. All new playgrounds and alterations shall conform to these requirements.

Prior to initiating any planning, fundraising or playground improvements, the school principal is required to submit a request to the Facilities Director, in writing, an outline of the intentions and timeline of the project.

Prior to Final Approval of any playground alterations, the Playground Alteration Checklist shall be provided and shall be approved by the Facilities Director and Maintenance Director.

All donated equipment and site or capital improvements require the execution of a formal agreement documenting the approvals, financial responsibility and transfer of ownership. (Agreement Involving Improvements at Schools)

II. Equipment and Construction

New playgrounds, improvements to existing playgrounds or expansions of playgrounds and new equipment shall meet the following requirements and ATSM 1487 "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specifications for Playground Equipment for Public Use".

1. New playgrounds must be ADA accessible from the school buildings.
2. Surfacing must meet ASTM 2223 Guidelines. The BCS minimum standard is pea gravel and will be maintained to correct depth by BCS Maintenance after initial purchase and installation by the school. This surfacing material limits equipment to a maximum 5' fall height. Daily maintenance of raking and distributing the pea gravel evenly is the responsibility of school staff. The preferred surfacing is rubber chips or poured rubber.

Alternative surfacing:

- Engineered wood fibers (10' fall height maximum)
 - Loose fill rubber (10' fall height maximum)
 - Poured in place rubber (10' fall height maximum)
 - Rubber tiles (10' fall height maximum)
 - Special Manufactured Wood Mulch (7' fall height)
 - Alternative surfacing must be certified compliant by manufacturer to meet ASTM 2223. Documentation must be maintained.
3. Installation: Must be done or supervised by IPEMA Certified Installers. Prior to student use, the completed installation shall require notification to Buncombe County Schools' Maintenance Department and shall be inspected by the appropriate parties.
 4. Borders: Ground contact pressure-treated 4x6 or 6x6, non-CCA treated or other approved products shall be used to contain and define the surfacing and playground areas.
 5. Equipment: Must be IPEMA Certified. Each playground must have signage for age-appropriate use.
Equipment and surfacing material and depth must be coordinated to provide for fall-height and use zone requirements.
Playgrounds and equipment shall be located on the site and the play area shall promote access, observation, safety and long-term maintenance.
 6. Perimeter fencing and barricades: Shall be provided when the playground is located adjacent to a hazard. Maintenance and personnel accessible gates shall be provided by the school system as necessary.

sample

AGREEMENT INVOLVING IMPROVEMENTS AT SCHOOLS

The XYZ has requested permission to XYZ at no cost to the Buncombe County Board of Education.

It is the opinion of the Superintendent's Office that this improvement will not only improve the monetary value of the existing facility, but will also be an asset to the school program.

On behalf of the Buncombe County Board of Education, the Superintendent's Office gives permission to the xyz to perform the work outlined above, subject to the following conditions:

1. That all construction and improvements when made shall become the property of the Buncombe County Board of Education;
2. That work shall be done in accordance with the information submitted to the Buncombe County Board of Education by XYZ, Principal, and approved on DATE XYZ by the Director of Maintenance or Director of Facilities;
3. That all funds necessary for materials, labor and other costs shall be paid by the XYZ and that no work shall begin until monies are available to pay for same;
4. That the XYZ will obtain from the contractor(s) performing this work prior to the beginning of the work a Certificate of Insurance indicating proof of the Worker's Compensation required by N.C. Law, Employer's Liability Insurance with \$100,000 limits and Comprehensive General Liability in the minimum amounts of \$100M/\$300M bodily injury and \$100M property damage. The XYZ will submit this certificate to the Purchasing Supervisor of the Buncombe County School System.
5. That the Buncombe County Board of Education shall not be liable for injuries to any volunteers while performing any of the above described work. The XYZ assumes all responsibility for the safety and welfare of volunteers and their employees working on this project;
6. That upon completion, a final report shall be submitted by the XYZ stating in essence that the project has been completed and that all costs have

been paid in full. The Maintenance Director will then make a final inspection;

7. That prior to work beginning, an original of this agreement shall be submitted to the Superintendent's Office assuming responsibility for this project and acknowledging acceptance of the above conditions; and further acknowledging the fact that all construction and improvements are the sole property of the Buncombe County Board of Education; and
8. That on behalf of the Buncombe County Board of Education, the Superintendent's Office may at any time, for reasons it deems appropriate, withdraw its consent as stated herein and work will immediately cease and all improvements made to that time will be paid in full and will become the property of the Buncombe County Board of Education.

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BY _____

Associate Superintendent of Schools

DATE _____

WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO THE FOREGOING CONDITIONS AND
ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE XYZ

BY _____

TITLE _____

DATE _____

References

(Available from the Facilities or Maintenance Departments Upon Request)

1. Buncombe County Schools: "Playground Planning and Construction Checklist", included.
2. Buncombe County Schools: "Sample Agreement Involving Improvements", included.
3. ASTM 2223 "Playground Surfacing", available upon request.
4. ASTM 1487 "Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use", available upon request.
5. Consumer Products Safety Commission Guidelines for Public Playgrounds: <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/325.pdf>