

# Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington State – 2024 Update of the 2003 Edition

## References:

The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) [Public Playground Safety Handbook](#),  
 ASTM F1487 Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use  
[2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design \(Chapters 1, 2, 240 &1008\)](#)

[ACCESSIBLE PLAY AREAS A Summary of Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas](#)

[Chapter 10: Play Areas \(access-board.gov\)](#)

[Chapter 10: Play Surfaces \(access-board.gov\)](#)

*Playground Safety Is No Accident*, IPSI - International Playground Safety Institute - [www.internationalplaygroundsafetyinstitute.com](http://www.internationalplaygroundsafetyinstitute.com)  
[Certified Playground Safety Inspector Certification Program, CPSI | Certification | National Recreation and Park Association \(nrpa.org\)](#)  
[National Program for Playground Safety \(NPPS\)](#)

The National Recreation and Park Association: [the-daily-dozen-12-point-playground-safety-checklist.pdf \(nrpa.org\)](#)

[WAC 246-366-030](#): Site Approval

[WAC 246-366-040](#): Plan Review and Inspection of Schools

[WAC 246-366-140](#): Safety

[Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goals | CPSC.gov](#)

[Natural Play Areas | Washington State Department of Health](#)

See Playgrounds under [www.doh.wa.gov/schoolenvironment](http://www.doh.wa.gov/schoolenvironment) for more information, resources, and links.

N. Playgrounds		WAC or other Code Reference	Standard/ Recommended Practice	Plan Review	Reason for Change
N001	All new playground equipment meets specifications in the most current versions of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission " <i>Handbook for Public Playground Safety</i> " and ASTM F 1487, " <i>Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specifications for Playground Equipment for Public Use</i> ."		CPSC <a href="#">Public Playground Safety Handbook</a> ASTM <a href="#">F1487</a>	x	
N001a	NOTE: While these ASTM standards and CPSC guidelines will not specifically address all older playground equipment (e.g., pre-1981 equipment), the general concepts and guidance <a href="#">are is</a> applicable to all playground equipment. <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov">http://www.cpsc.gov</a>		<a href="#">CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook</a>		
<a href="#">N001b</a>	<a href="#">NOTE: Natural Play Areas need to be designed and installed in accordance with the equipment, surfacing, use zones, and hazard prevention standards in the applicable CPSC and ASTM standards.</a>		<a href="#">DOH Guidance for Natural Play Areas</a>		
N002	New playgrounds are accessible. Schools must meet "Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990" requirements. <a href="#">After March 15,2012 newly constructed and altered play areas must meet the 2010 Americans with Disability Act Standards for Accessible Design.</a>	<a href="#">2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design (Chapters 1, 2, 240 &amp;1008)</a>	<a href="#">ASTM F1487 Section 10</a>	x	
N003	Plans for new playgrounds are reviewed by the school district's local health <a href="#">jurisdiction district</a> .	246-366-030(+) <a href="#">246-366-040</a>		x	
N004	The school has a written policy/procedure on playground supervision that ensures adequate supervision of the playground whenever it is occupied during the school day. <del>To determine adequate supervision the school conducted an evaluation considering all relevant factors.</del>		<del>OSPI and DOH</del> <a href="#">CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook 2.2.7</a>		<a href="#">Covered in N005</a>

N. Playgrounds		WAC or other Code Reference	Standard/ Recommended Practice	Review Plan	Reason for Change
N005	Playground supervisors are selected, trained, and equipped according to written guidelines. <u>NOTE: <a href="#">Playground Supervision Kit — School-Age Edition   National Program for Playground Safety</a> may be a helpful resource.</u>		<a href="#">OSPI and DOH CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook 2.2.7</a>		
N006	There are written plans for, and employees have been trained in, how to handle emergencies on the playground.		<a href="#">OSPI and DOH Washington State School Directors' Association, model policy 3432</a>		
N007	The school has written playground rules that are taught to students and posted at school, sent to the parents, and reviewed <del>periodically</del> <u>yearly and when new equipment is installed.</u>		<a href="#">OSPI and DOH Playground Safety Is No Accident</a>		
<u>N 007a</u>	<u>Signage: Playgrounds will have posted signs in accordance with ASTM 1487.14.</u>		<a href="#">ASTM 1487.14</a>		
N008	The school/district has written procedures and a process for selecting and placing playground equipment appropriately.		<a href="#">OSPI and DOH CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook Chapter 2</a>		
N009	All playground equipment has <del>acceptable</del> <u>required</u> fall <u>use</u> zones and <del>acceptable</del> protective surfacing. <u>(NOTE: "acceptable" according to the most current versions of the CPSC "Handbook for Public Playground Safety." See Sections 4 &amp; 5 and Table 4 for recommended depth of various surfacing materials.) <a href="http://www.cpsc.gov">http://www.cpsc.gov</a> Functionally linked equipment will be evaluated during plan review for reasonable transitions that do not increase hazards.</u>		<a href="#">CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook Sections 2.4, Section 5, Table 2</a>  <a href="#">ASTM F1487, F1292, F1951, F2223, F2075, F3012</a>	x	
N009a	NOTE: A "triaxial accelerometer" has been developed to conduct measurements of HIC and G-max. These field tests provide documented test data of surfacing impact conditions at the time of testing. Surface conditions will vary greatly due to temperature and other weather conditions as well as from day-to-day changes due to local activities.				

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N010	The school/district has a comprehensive inspection and maintenance program for playgrounds which specifies the frequency of inspection.		<a href="#">OSPI and DOH CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook Section 4, Appendix A</a>		
N011	Periodic maintenance and repair is performed on playground equipment according to the manufacturer's specifications.		<a href="#">OSPI and DOH CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook Section 4</a>		
N012	Periodic playground inspections are documented. Inspections include identifying hazards specified in the most current versions of the <a href="#">U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission "CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety"</a> and ASTM <a href="#">F1487</a> , <a href="#">"Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Playground Equipment for Public Use." Playground inspections should be done by or under the supervision of a Certified Playground Safety Inspector.</a>		<a href="#">CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook Section 4</a>  ASTM F1487		
N013	There is a procedure and process for adequately addressing hazards on the playground.		<a href="#">OSPI and DOH CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook Section 3</a>		
N014	Soccer goals are anchored to prevent tipping as per CPSC guidelines. NOTE: See the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's "Guidelines for Movable Soccer Goal Safety."		CPSC	x	
N015	Information on "best practices" of many aspects of school playground safety listed in this section can be found in <a href="#">"School Playground Safety Guidelines"</a> available at: <a href="http://www.esd112.org/insurance_programs/resources.html">www.esd112.org/insurance_programs/resources.html</a> <a href="#">Playground Safety is No Accident.</a>				
N016	NOTE: The National Program for Playground Safety provides information for parents, school administrators and other public officials relating to improvement of playground safety, <a href="#">at the following website:</a> <a href="http://www.uni.edu/playground/">http://www.uni.edu/playground/</a>				
<a href="#">N017</a>	<a href="#">NOTE: The National Recreation &amp; Park Association's The Daily Dozen: A 12-Point Playground Safety Checklist is a useful tool.</a>				