



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION

Each year, over 200,000 people are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with playground equipment, with the majority of these injuries involving children under the age of 15 years old. Choosing playground equipment wisely is instrumental for every district hoping to prevent student injuries. Districts should engineer safety into the design of their playgrounds. All equipment purchased should meet or exceed the following standards and/or guidelines:



- 1. American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM)** – is an independent and world-renowned developer of technical standards utilized in testing a multitude of products.
- 2. International Playground Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA)** - provides a third-party certification service where an independent laboratory validates equipment manufacturers' certification conformance to ASTM F1487.
- 3. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** – is an independent agency within the United States federal government with the authority to inform the public of current product performance information and recommended practices.
- 4. On-site Safety Consultant** – The district should always hire a representative of the playground manufacturer to be on site during the installation. There is usually a fee associated with having a safety consultant on site, but the cost is a lot less than the cost of a child injury due to the equipment being improperly installed. The safety consultant should sign off that the equipment was installed per the manufacturer's recommendations. In addition, the playground vendor you purchased the equipment from should also inspect the equipment prior to allowing kids to play on it. The playground vendor should also sign off that the equipment was installed properly.





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5. American with Disabilities Act (ADA) – Access board has completed accessibility guidelines for play facilities as set forth in the ADA of 1990.

All children, regardless of age, require adult supervision. Kids will always find new and inventive—but not necessarily safe—ways to play on or around playground equipment. The good news is that while injuries do happen, many can be avoided with appropriate safety surfacing and simple supervision.

If you have any additional questions regarding installation of playgrounds, please contact the risk management department at riskmanagement@sdao.com or 800-285-5461.

