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Quick Reference Guide

# INSTALLING NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Each year, roughly 200,000 children are treated for playground-related injuries. The installing of new playground equipment provides an opportunity to engineer safety into the design and prevent some of these injuries. Following established standards and guidelines throughout the process helps make new playgrounds a safe place for students to play and learn.

## EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

All equipment purchased and installed should meet or exceed the following standards and/or guidelines:

- **AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TESTING AND MATERIALS** - ASTM is an independent and world-renowned developer of techincal standards used in testing a multitude of products. All playground equipment in schools should meet ASTM 1487-25 standards.

- **INTERNATIONAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION** - IPEMA provides a third-party certification service from an independent laboratory that validates a manufacturer certification. All newly installed playground equipment should be IPEMA-certified.

- **U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION** - CSPC is an independent agency within the United States with the authority to inform the public of current product performance information and recommended practices. The CSPC published the Public Playground Safety Handbook with guidance on how to design, build, and maintain safe playgrounds.

- **AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT** - ADA - Accessibility issues for play equipment are addressed in ASTM 1487-21 and the ADA standards for play surfacing are outlined in ASTM 1951-21.

- **ON-SITE SAFETY CONSULTANT** - The district should hire a manufacturer representative to be on-site during the installation. Although there may be a charge for this, the cost is offset by the prevention of student injuries due to improper installation. Before allowing children to play on the equipment, the consultant should sign a document certifying it was installed to the manufacturer's specifications and meets all the standards and guidelines.

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