

New Construction

PLAYGROUNDS / INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT

7240.1

Existing Playgrounds

Playgrounds are a part of the elementary school's outdoor recreational facilities. However, they are not a required school facility.

The Fairfield Public School's maintenance department is responsible for safety inspections and general maintenance of the playgrounds. Using funds budgeted specifically for playground maintenance and safety, the district's staff has been able to provide regular maintenance and certain repairs. When major components of a playground are beyond repair, the practice has been for the district to remove the unsafe equipment.

In addition, a substantial investment of public funds and resources is provided through the Board's maintenance department and the Town's Public Works in the form of labor and materials. They have been responsible for items such as site renovation around playgrounds, ground cover with long-lasting material specifically designed to absorb impact and resist decay, erosion barriers, and installation of new equipment.

New Playgrounds at Existing Schools

When new playgrounds are constructed at school sites, internal maintenance crews currently support the "heavy work" for the installation of playgrounds. They will dig curtain drains and footings, and provide ground cover and erosion barriers to contain the ground cover. They are often responsible to remove old playground equipment and old footings.

These playgrounds become subject to local building codes or regulations. When installed as part of a school building project, the playground also comes under the scrutiny of the Connecticut State Department of Education. Additionally, the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Americans with Disabilities Act provide certain standards and requirements for playgrounds.

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