

Policy 7437 PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT POLICY

A. The Playground Equipment Policy is first governed by the District of Vineland Public Schools Mission Statement as stated below:

Vineland Public Schools Mission Statement

The mission of the Vineland Public Schools is based upon the conviction that all students can learn. We recognize that learning is the result of a strong partnership of parents, teachers and the community, as students are challenged to become active participants in the quest for excellence. Our goal is to ensure a safe, creative, stimulating and caring environment which promotes self-esteem, sound character, responsibility and respect for diversity. This will enable students to become knowledgeable, skillful, life-long learners who are contributing citizens in our changing society. We expect the best from our students and will give no less of ourselves.

B. In keeping with the safe environment phrase in the mission statement, all equipment placed on school grounds must fall under the guidelines in the Handbook for Public Playground Safety published by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety commission, Washington, D.C.

C. In keeping with district policy and curriculum, any equipment placed on school grounds must be supported by the "Rationale for Physical Education" as stated in the School District Curriculum Manual as follows:

Vineland Public Schools Rationale for Physical Education

It is our belief that a total physical education program should accomplish the following developmental goals:

1. Organic Power-Strengthen muscles, develop resistance to fatigue and increase cardiovascular efficiency.
2. Neuromuscular Development - Develop skills, grace, a sense of rhythm, and improved reaction time.
3. Personal-Social Attitudes and Adjustment - Encourage self-confidence, esteem, dignity, sociability, sportsmanship, self-direction and a feeling of belonging.
4. Interpretive and Intellectual Development - Develop imagination, originality and an understanding of safety factors.
5. Emotional Responsiveness - Develop an appreciation of esthetic experiences, a willingness to accept challenges, expression of fun.

D. The installation of any equipment on school grounds shall be monitored by the Playground Equipment Committee a standing committee appointed by the Superintendent of Schools. The members of the Playground Equipment Committee shall be:

- One principal from the elementary and/or intermediate level
- One physical education teacher from the elementary and/or intermediate level.
- The Supervisor of Maintenance
- An "Open Chair" which, depending on need, will include a teacher, playground aide or parent.

The Playground Equipment Committee will have an understanding of the guidelines from the Handbook for Public Playground Safety. The committee will serve as a resource for those schools that are considering placing playground on the school site.

Any principal wishing to place equipment on his/her school site must first consult with this committee through the office of the Superintendent. The principal should also involve at least two parent representatives from the school parent organization in the process of recommending and ultimately selecting appropriate playground equipment.

Adopted: 11 June 1997