



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

## SCHOOL GROUNDS: ENHANCEMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

**Policy Number: E-14**

**Authority: 02-124/13-33/17-217/20-110/  
23-40/26-47**

### POLICY STATEMENT

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The Northeastern Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) strives to provide school grounds that are safe, inclusive, functional, and designed to enhance educational opportunities for students. The NCDSB is committed to having school grounds that allow for a range of outdoor learning spaces that provide students with active and quiet play, spaces for relaxation, and a range of physical activity. The NCDSB believes that school grounds are an integral and important aspect of the school community, designed to be accessible and responsive to the needs of all learners.

### REFERENCES

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#### *Education Act*

Section 265 Duties of Principal: Care of Pupils and Property

Section 286 Duties of Supervisory Officers: Supervise Buildings and Property

Ontario Regulation 298 Operation of Schools

Ontario Regulation 191/11 Integrated Accessibility Standards

*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*

National Playground and Safety Standards

Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange (OSBIE)

Children's Play Spaces and Equipment: CAN/CSA-Z614-98

NCDSB Policy

B-8 Purchasing

B-16 School Generated Funds

NCDSB Administrative Procedure

APE014 School Grounds: Enhancements and Equipment

### DEFINITIONS

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#### **Outdoor Play and Learning Spaces**

May include the use of natural pieces such as trees, boulders, pathways, raised flower beds or garden boxes as well as other items such as benches to create a social center and areas sheltered from the elements on school property or in the early learning play areas.

#### **Playground Equipment**

Any installed, pre-fabricated playground apparatus anchored to the ground or having natural stability and not intended to be moved.

### **School Grounds Enhancement Projects**

Initiated by the school and may include but are not limited to, greening initiatives, outdoor classrooms, location of play structures, and other outdoor learning spaces for students and the school community.

### **POLICY REGULATIONS**

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- 1.0 The acquisition, installation, and maintenance of playground equipment shall be in compliance with the related procedures and safety guidelines.
- 2.0 Principals shall work in partnership with the appropriate Supervisory Officer and/or Department Manager in all matters relating to the planning, design, procurement, installation, and/or repair of playground equipment and other school grounds enhancement projects.
- 3.0 Except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Director of Education, the funding for school ground enhancement projects, playground equipment, related groundwork, and contingency costs are the responsibility of the respective school community.
- 4.0 Administrative procedures will accompany this policy and will be reviewed regularly to ensure compliance with current regulations, requirements, responsibilities, and expectations.