

Organization of Self-Insured Schools (OSS)

ANNUAL

Playground Equipment Safety Check List for Custodians/M and O/Principals

Introduction: School playground equipment should be given a safety check monthly with some items checked annually. This form should be completed **annually** and kept on file for five years. It is available on the OSS website: ossweb.org under "Risk Management."

District	Site	Playground Location
Check List Completed By	Title	Date

ANNUAL CHECK LIST

Item	Condition		Has a work request been submitted?		Notes
	Good	Needs Attention	Yes	No	
1. Signage: Does the entrance to the playground contain signage indicating the appropriate age level (2 - 5 years or 5 - 12 years), and a statement indicating "Adult Supervision is Required?" If not, a sign should be installed that reads: "This playground equipment is appropriate for ages _____ years. Adult supervision is required."					
2. Use Zones and Equipment Spacing: Is there a safe, clear area around stationary play equipment (usually 6') and are the use zones around swings equal to two times the height of the support structure?					
3. Entrapment of Openings: Are there any openings between 3' and 9' which may entrap a child's head? Pay special attention to openings at the top of the equipment and side openings between platforms and climbers. Partially bounded openings, such as seen on the top of a picket fence, may entrap a child's neck and should be avoided on play equipment.					

Item	Condition		Has a work request been submitted?		Notes
	Good	Needs Attention	Yes	No	
4. Platform Guardrails: Do the elevated surfaces such as platforms, ramps, and bridge-ways, have guardrails or barriers that would prevent accidental falls? Preschool age children are more at risk from falls; therefore, equipment intended for this age group should have guardrails on elevated surfaces higher than 20' and protective barriers on platforms higher than 30'. Equipment intended for school-age children should have guardrails on elevated surfaces higher than 30' with barriers on platforms above 48'.					
5. Equipment Not Recommended for School Playgrounds: Accidents associated with the following types of equipment have resulted in the Consumer Product Safety Commission recommending that they not be used on public playgrounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heavy swings such as animal figure swings and multiple occupancy/glider type swings. - Free swinging ropes that may fray or form a loop. - Swinging exercise rings and trapeze bars are considered athletic equipment and not recommended for public playgrounds. Overhead hanging rings that have a short amount of chain (12') are allowed on public playground equipment. 					

The Dirty Dozen Brochure, prepared by the National Playground Safety Institute, may be used as a reference. It is on the OSS website.