



**POLICY SECTION:** BUILDINGS/PLANT/GROUNDS  
**SUB-SECTION:** GROUNDS  
**POLICY NAME:** **OUTDOOR PLAY ENVIRONMENT**  
**POLICY NO:** B.G. 01

<b>Date Approved:</b> BM p 315, Mar 80.	<b>Date of Next Review:</b> <b>November 2021</b>	<b>Dates of Amendments:</b> BM p 126, 19 Jun 86 BM p 216, 21 Oct 82 February 17, 2005 – Board <b>November 24, 2016- Board</b>
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**Cross References:**

**Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)**  
**CSA Z614 Standard**  
**F. P. 01 Purchasing Policy**  
**F. F. 26 Sponsorship Policy**  
**S. 25 Good Neighbour Policy**  
**S.M. 04 Fund Raising Policy**  
**Education Act R.R.O. 1990 Regulation 298, Operation of School, s. 24 (1) & (2), s. 25(1) & (2).**  
**TCDSB Facilities Operating Procedure**  
**TCDSB FDK Playground Standard**

**Purpose:**

To provide appropriate outdoor physical play environments that enhance the creative, social and physical development and well-being of students. Outdoor physical play environments include, but are not limited to, outdoor activity equipment and play structures.

**Scope and Responsibility:**

This policy applies to all Board sites where an outdoor physical play environment is initiated and implemented. The Director of Education, supported by the Superintendent of Facilities is responsible to implement the Outdoor Play Environment Policy. Principals are responsible to communicate with the Superintendent of Facilities when considering initiating outdoor activity equipment.

**Alignment with MYSP:**

**Living Our Catholic Values**  
**Strengthening Public Confidence**  
**Fostering Student Achievement and Well-Being**  
**Providing Stewardship of Resources**



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**Policy:**

**The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) acknowledges that part of children’s development occurs during periods of play. Accordingly, the TCDSB endorses appropriate outdoor physical play environments to enhance the creative, social and physical development and well-being of students.**

**Regulations:**

- 1. Funding for the purchase and installation of outdoor activity equipment shall be through non-Facilities sources, such as the Catholic School Parents Committee (CSPC), fund-raising or municipal development funds, other external grants or other funding sources identified by the Board.**
- 2. If applicable, in conjunction with a site improvement project such as asphalt re-surfacing, school yard improvements and/or a tree planting initiative, the site preparation work associated with a play structure installation and/or a school yard greening project, may be funded by the Board’s School Renewal Program, administered through Facilities Services, and subject to Board approval of the funding through the School Renewal Program.**
- 3. Implementation of exterior play environments shall comply with the TCDSB Purchasing Policy for consultant and contractor selection and where applicable be supervised by Facilities Services in consultation with the school community.**
- 4. Consultation with the school community – parents and staff, and where applicable the local community, will be undertaken as part of the project development.**
- 5. The Principal in consultation with the Facilities Services Department will approve the location of a new play structure or play area on the site, taking into account site supervision and safety as well as site conditions such as grading, under-ground services, fire route or other access routes.**
- 6. Initiation of exterior play environments shall be requested through the Principal to the Facilities Services Department. Facilities Services staff shall provide technical resources and administration of the project, from design through to procurement and construction.**



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7. **The services of a landscape architect, architect or geotechnical engineer may be required to address sub-base drainage or grading issues as well as other design or installation considerations, specific to the site and the project. In such cases, the cost of the consultant, and any associated testing or surveys may be charged to the School Renewal Program, subject to available funding and approval through the School Renewal Program. Otherwise, the cost of the consultant, if required or recommended by Facilities staff, shall be incorporated into the project budget.**
8. Where **outdoor activity equipment** is being considered by a school community, the school's Superintendent of Education shall make the school community aware of the financial, safety, and social implications of such installation.
9. The Principal will highlight the safety aspects of the playground equipment to the school community on an annual basis.
10. All playground equipment installed on a TCDSB site shall comply with Board specifications and applicable jurisdictional codes. The Board shall be responsible for the maintenance and inspection of the equipment and site.
11. **The Board's preferred choice of surface materials around the playground equipment are wood chips, sand or rubber-like materials. The depth and protective surfacing zone shall comply with CSA standards.**
12. **All outdoor activity equipment installed on TCDSB premises, upon Board approval, shall become the property of Toronto Catholic District School Board.**
13. Where outside agencies, such as the City of Toronto, have proposed a cost sharing arrangement for the provision and installation of playground equipment, the TCDSB shall have regard for City of Toronto criteria in selecting candidate sites for funding under this program.

#### **Evaluation and Metrics:**

1. **The effectiveness of this policy is anticipated to provide parents and school communities with guidance to initiate a project to enhance a school's exterior play environment.**



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**Definitions:**

**Outdoor Activity Equipment:**

Outdoor activity equipment includes, but is not limited to, all outdoor structures such as basketball stands, soccer/football posts, tetherball posts, track and field facilities, and playground equipment and accessories.

**Outdoor Playground Structure:**

A free-standing structure for use in school playgrounds in which one or more components and their supporting members are anchored to the ground, or having natural stability, and not intended to be moved. Materials used in outdoor play ground structures range from naturalized to man-made resources.