

PACE

SAFETY • SERVICE • SAVINGS
A TRUST BUILT FOR STUDENTS

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Each year, over 200,000 people are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with playground equipment; most of these injuries involve children under the age of 15 years.

School districts can help to prevent student injuries by engineering safety into the design of their playgrounds, choosing approved playground equipment and installing it properly.



EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

All equipment purchased should meet or exceed the following standards and/or guidelines:

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TESTING AND MATERIALS - [ASTM](#) is an independent and world-renowned developer of technical standards used in testing a multitude of products.

INTERNATIONAL PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION - [IPEMA](#) provides a third-party certification service where an independent laboratory validates an equipment manufacturer's certification of conformance to ASTM F1487-17.

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION - [CPSC](#) is an independent agency within the United States Federal Government with the authority to inform the public of current product performance information and recommended practices.

ON-SITE SAFETY CONSULTANT - The district should always hire the manufacturer's representative to be on-site during the installation. There is usually a charge for an on-site safety consultant, but it is a lot lower than the cost of a student injury if the equipment is not installed properly. The safety consultant should sign off that the equipment was installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Before allowing kids to play on the equipment, the playground vendor should also inspect the equipment and sign off that it was installed properly.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) - The Access Board has developed [accessibility guidelines for play facilities](#) as set forth in the ADA of 2010.

All children, regardless of age, require adult supervision. Kids will always find new and inventive - but not necessarily safe - ways to play on or around playground equipment. The good news is that while injuries do happen, many can be avoided with appropriate safety surfacing and simple supervision.

Questions? Contact PACE Risk Management

PACE RISK MANAGEMENT

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