

CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS AND OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

Policy Code:

9210

The board strives to make the physical grounds at each school campus part of a safe, orderly, and inviting educational environment. To further this goal, the principal shall seek opportunities to involve employees, parents, and students at that school in the decisions related to the school grounds and shall make reasonable efforts to maintain the grounds and outdoor equipment in a manner consistent with board goals.

A. HEALTH AND SAFETY

The board recognizes that chromated copper arsenate-treated wood (“arsenate-treated wood”) has been found to pose health hazards to students and has been removed from the marketplace for residential uses. Thus, the board prohibits the purchase or acceptance of arsenate-treated wood for future use on school grounds. To the extent possible, the principal or designee shall ensure that existing arsenate-treated wood in playground equipment is sealed.

The principal or designee shall inspect playgrounds and outdoor equipment for other health and safety hazards on a regular basis and as required by law and post warnings of any hazards as necessary to alert the public, staff, and students of those hazards. The principal or designee shall notify the superintendent immediately of repairs needed to meet safety standards.

B. LANDSCAPING

The board does not have the financial resources to pay for professional landscaping and beautification of grounds. The board encourages individual schools to solicit the help of interested community groups to take the lead in beautifying school grounds and making them a center of community pride.

Before planting shrubbery on school system property, school administrators and cooperating community organizations are encouraged to consult a landscape architect to obtain a long-range plan for planting shrubbery. Failure to do so can result in an unattractive environment. Once a long-range plan is set up by someone with professional knowledge, community organizations may wish to take responsibility for implementing certain portions of the plan.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-12(34)(a), -36, -47, -524

Cross References: Student Safety (policy 1510/4200/7270)

Adopted: May 2, 2016