

Peaceful Playgrounds™ newsletter play nice!

Top 20 Legal Issues for K-8 Principals

Of the 20 top legal issues for K-8 principals playground injuries is #18. The purpose of examining injuries in the school environment is for both legal and safety reasons. The examination of student injury data should be logged into four categories. 1) Environmental conditions- typically dealing with play structures and surfacing, and checks for equipment maintenance. 2) Enforcing policies and regulations for safe play. 3) Modification of student behavior - thought of as playground safety rules and procedures, i.e. Freeze at the bell. 4) Student instructions in how to play safe and adult instruction on playground supervision.

As an expert witness in playground injury cases, I have found that the answers to the following cases are key in determining the school's legal liability.

1. What was the ratio of students to adult supervisors when the injury occurred?
2. Do you have a copy of school wide playground rules to insure playground safety?
3. When did your staff receive playground supervisor training?
4. If the injury occurred in the play structure area: Can you produce a copy of the last time a playground check occurred? What was the depth of the "fill/surfacing material" at the time of the fall? (If injury was from a fall).

These generic questions typically give a birds eye view of the prevention strategies put in place by the school administration. Accidents are unavoidable but thoughtful planning to insure student safety limits school liability and helps to reduce student injuries.

Sales Representatives Wanted

Are you enjoying the benefits of a Peaceful Playground? Then "we want you". Peaceful Playgrounds is currently interviewing enthusiastic people interested in joining the Peaceful Playgrounds family of sales reps.

Send a resume to: Melinda@peacefulplaygrounds.com
or call for more information 877-444-9888.



Recess Supervision Ratios

One of the most common questions we receive in the office is: "What should be the ratio of teachers and playground supervisors to students?"

The National Playground Safety Program recommends that the ratio should be the same on the playground as class size requirements. Since the outdoor environment is unstructured it seems reasonable that the ratios should be the same. However, let me say that in traveling and speaking in schools across the nation, that ratio is always higher.

I maintain that supervisor training is one of the most important factors in keeping students safe. A well trained supervisor learns to anticipate potential problems and moves in close proximity to difficulties. Further, well trained supervisors understand the importance in supervision zones and areas of responsibility.

Research indicates that in 40% of school injuries, lack of supervision is a contributing factor. Well trained supervisors make a huge difference toward keeping kids safe.

For more information read "The Effects of Peaceful Playgrounds on Injury Reduction." www.peacefulplaygrounds.com/research.htm
This information earned Curran Elementary School, Murrieta, CA a Golden Bell Award for student safety.

Friendly Reminder

Peaceful Playgrounds products are sold with a site license for use at a single school site.. We recommend that the school library inventory and check out materials to appropriate school site personnel.

Peaceful Playgrounds logo and program information. The logo features the word "FUNDAMENTAL" in a stylized font above "MOVEMENT PROGRAM". Below this are icons for "TRAINING", "EQUIPMENT", "WE COUNT", and "ACTIVITIES". The Peaceful Playgrounds logo is also present.

Call (877) 444-9888 For Information!

Peaceful Playgrounds Workshops

A workshop for certification as a Peaceful Playgrounds Trainer will be held in Los Angeles, CA February 26, 2007

Call 877-444-9888 for registration form or email info@peacefulplaygrounds.com

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