



**Systemwide Safety Programs**  
**Office of Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management**  
**Montgomery County Public Schools**

**PROHIBITED PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT**

The following playground equipment is not permitted in new MCPS playground systems.<sup>1</sup> Equipment is prohibited based on safety, maintenance, service life, and space requirements. Exceptions may be made, where approved by MCPS Systemwide Safety Programs.

**Prohibited playground equipment:**

1. Equipment not installed by MCPS-approved vendors.
2. Equipment not designed and manufactured for commercial playground use.
3. Swings (except for accessible swings for special schools).
4. Swings and any other equipment attached to trees or other objects not installed by MCPS-approved playground installers.
5. Enclosed tunnels without openings or spy holes permitting observation of children inside.
6. Tunnel slides.
7. Fully-enclosed dome climbers. Openings must be large enough for easy access to injured children inside the dome.
8. Climbing walls and any other equipment with fall heights exceeding 84 inches (60 inches for Pre-K playgrounds).
9. Platforms taller than 72 inches (48 inches for Pre-K playgrounds).
10. Log rolls.
11. Track rides.
12. Clatter bridges (bridges with moving parts).
13. Trampolines.
14. Climbing ropes not secured at both ends.
15. Chain net climbers.
16. 3D matrix net climbers (such as Playworld PlayWeb).

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<sup>1</sup> Revised July 14, 2023

**Prohibited playground equipment (continued):**

17. Playworld Vortex and similar spinning pieces that encourage high-frequency running in a circle around the piece, which digs out wood fiber surfacing and damages rubber surfacing.
18. GameTime Hanging Pod.
19. Yellow-colored equipment (yellow equipment attracts stinging insects).
20. Equipment with major components constructed of wood and/or bare metal.
21. Benches, play pieces, or any other fixed equipment closer than 72 inches to a fence, wall, or other object that should not be climbed by children.
22. Fences<sup>2</sup>:
  - a. Chain link fences with mesh openings larger than 1¾ inches measured horizontally between the corners of the mesh openings. Large mesh openings enable climbing.
  - b. Fences with exposed sharp wires or other components.
  - c. Playground user access gates with protruding latches or other protrusions at a height less than 54 inches from the ground.
  - d. Playground user access gates that swing inward into the play environment.
23. Any other equipment deemed not permissible by MCPS Systemwide Safety Programs.

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<sup>2</sup> Fences should be consistent with ASTM F2049, *Standard Safety Performance Specification for Fences/Barriers for Public, Commercial, and Multi-Family Residential Use Outdoor Play Areas*.