

# PLAYGROUND TIPS

## FOR SCHOOL MAINTENANCE STAFF

*Custodial or maintenance staff should check the playground area for the following on a routine basis:*

### Surfacing

- Loose-fill surfacing materials have not been displaced under heavy-use areas such as under swings or at slide exits.
- No holes, flakes, and/or buckling of unitary surfacing.
- No broken glass, weeds, and other litter.
- No exposed concrete footings.
- Use zones are clear of obstacles and free of debris.
- Branches hanging over play equipment should be trimmed.



### Equipment

- No broken equipment such as loose bolts, missing end caps, cracks, etc.
- No damaged, loose, vandalized, or missing parts.
- S-hooks are not worn and are closed to within 0.04 inches (size of a dime).
- No sharp edges and shear points (peeling vinyl coatings on surfaces).
- Equipment is stable and not bent.
- All moving parts, like swing seats and chains, are in good repair.
- Equipment free of entanglement hazards (e.g. gap at top of the slide) or protrusions (e.g. bolts that are too long).
- Bolts longer than 2 threads should be cut or capped.
- Cables are anchored and not unraveled.
- Footholds and rungs are tight and free of excessive wear.
- Slide bed way is smooth and free of cracks.
- All moving components are in good condition, secure, and lubricated.
- Warning labels and age signage are present and legible.
- Metal surfaces are rust free and paint is not flaking.
- No wood splitting or rot.

