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## **PLAYGROUND AND OUTDOOR LEARNING SPACES**

### **1.0 Rationale:**

The Board recognizes the need to promote positive play and outdoor learning experiences within a safe school environment. The playgrounds should, wherever possible, promote green areas and alternative methods of providing positive play and learning experiences.

### **2.0 Definitions:**

Playground – an area of a school yard designed to provide an environment for children that facilitates play. Also known as a playpark or play area.

Outdoor Learning Space – a space constructed outdoors to assist with learning which incorporates nature in its design and function.

Natural Playspace – a space that incorporates both playground and learning using natural elements that facilitates both play and learning.

### **3.0 Policy:**

District School Board Ontario North East supports the improvement and development of playgrounds and outdoor learning spaces. This may be accomplished via school requests for identified available funding or by raising funds through the efforts of a School Parent Council for the purpose of providing and installing approved playground structures and natural play and learning elements within the guidelines of this policy and the accompanying procedures, where the selected improvements promotes a wide variety of schoolyard activities designed to promote life-long physical fitness and learning.

(Note: Nothing in the foregoing precludes the Board from at any time contributing to the improvement and development of school playgrounds.)