

Supervision	2000 %	2004 %	2000 Grade	2004 Grade
Adults present	74	75	C	C
Easily viewed	95	89	A	B+
Crawl spaces	91	71	A-	C-
Supervision rules posted	10	7	F	F
Overall Grade: Supervision			B-	C
Age-Appropriate Design	2000 %	2004 %	2000 Grade	2004 Grade
Had separate areas	42	42	F	F
Signage for age group provided	6	15	F	F
Provided change of direction	91	95	A-	A
Had guardrails	90	93	A-	A-
Prevented climbing outside the structure	69	84	D+	B
Supporting structure prevented climbing on	78	86	C+	B
Overall Grade: Age - Appropriate Design			C	C+
Fall Surfacing	2000 %	2004 %	2000 Grade	2004 Grade
Suitable materials provided	83	89	B-	B+
Heights of equipment 8 feet or lower	NA	93	NA	A-
Appropriate depth of loose fill	49	30	F	F
Six foot use zone had appropriate surface	72	82	C-	B-
Concrete footings were covered	88	93	B+	A-
Free of foreign objects	84	80	B	B-
Overall Grade: Fall Surfacing			C+	B-
Equipment Maintenance	2000 %	2004 %	2000 Grade	2004 Grade
Free of broken parts	82	83	B-	B-
Free of missing parts	80	89	B-	B+
Free of protruding bolts	81	87	B-	B+
Free of noticeable gaps	75	76	C	C
Free of head entrapments	80	85	B-	B
Free of rust	75	74	C	C
Free of splinter	69	55	D+	F
Free of cracks/holes	94	96	A	A
Overall Grade: Equipment Maintenance			B-	B-

Playground Equipment Profile*		
Year of installation	2004	
Pre 1980	17%	
1981-1990	18%	
1991-1994	21%	
1995-1997	18%	
1998-present	50%	
Not available	5%	
Kinds of Equipment**	2000	2004
Slides	89%	93%
Swings	65%	57%
Horizontal ladders	77%	73%
Sliding poles	60%	52%
Chinning bars	50%	46%
Seesaws	13%	7%
Merry-go-rounds	9%	2%
Geodesic domes	25%	18%
* The number in these columns indicates the percentages of the year of installation. These may contain a combination of different installation years at each playground site. NA represents percentages that are not available.		
** The numbers in these columns reflect percentages of equipment pieces were found.		
Grading Scale: A=90-100 B=80-89 C=70-79 D=60-69 F=59>		

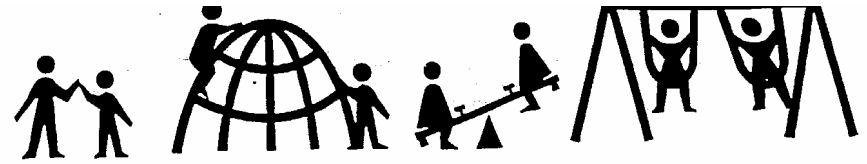
United States School Grade:

2000

C+

2004

C+



Comments

The United States schools received an overall grade of C+ for the 2004 report card. This is the same grade from the 2000 report card when the United States schools received a grade of C+.

Fifty-two percent of the schools (26) in the United States improved their grades. However, greater improvements need to be made in areas of supervision, age appropriate design, fall surfacing, and equipment maintenance if children are to have A playgrounds. Specifically, the posting of rules, separating play spaces, and maintaining the appropriate depth of loose-fill materials will improve the safety of playgrounds. By working together, schools can help ensure that playgrounds are SAFE for America's children.

The National Program For Playground Safety America's Playgrounds Safety Report Card 2004

The National Program for Playground Safety is housed at the University of Northern Iowa. For additional information about playground safety, contact the National Program for Playground Safety at the following address:

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*America's playgrounds
Make them safe*

United States

School