FACILITIES

Facilities Design and Construction

Site Planning and Development

This policy supersedes Policy 8310.3.

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for site planning and development.

II. SUMMARY OF CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

- A Philosophy Statement has been added.
- Reference guidelines in section IV & V have been corrected.
- The chart information in section V has been updated.
- A landscaping sub paragraph in section VII.C (Landscaping) has been deleted.
- Legal references have been updated.

III. PHILOSOPHY

The Fairfax County School Board recognizes the importance of good site planning and development strategies that are not just in compliance with State and Local guidelines, but also reinforce the academic program and extracurricular activities, while also increasing the school's place within the community as a resource for recreation programs.

IV. AUTHORITY

Sites shall be planned and developed generally in accordance with the regulations and recommendations of the *Guidelines for School Facilities in Virginia's Public Schools* and in compliance with the Code of the County of Fairfax.

V. SIZE

The minimum size of school sites shall be in accordance with the regulations and recommendations of the *Guidelines for School Facilities in Virginia's Public Schools.* Any requests for waiver of required minimum size shall be approved by the School Board and submitted to the state Department of Education. In the absence of special circumstances, the usable area of a site for any new school plan shall be computed as follows:

School Type	Basic Acreage	Additional Acreage per 100 Pupils in Ultimate Enrollment
Elementary	4 5	1
Middle or High	15	1
Sr. High or Combined School	20	1

VI. SITE DEVELOPMENT

Protection of the environment shall be consideration in school site planning and development. Site development shall support the instructional and extracurricular school program. Community use for educational and recreational purposes shall be considered during site planning and development.

VII. LANDSCAPING

A. Landscaping plans shall be prepared as part of architectural services for new buildings or as may be required by the county governing body.

B. To the extent permitted by site topography and site improvements, and where economically feasible, the site shall be planned and constructed to preserve trees, shrubs, and desirable vegetation where possible.

C. Drought-resistant landscaping will be used to conserve water, and maintenance-free landscaped areas will be installed wherever practical to reduce energy consumption and emissions incurred due to mowing and other maintenance activities. Artificial turf will be installed on fields wherever possible. These fields will result in the savings of millions of gallons of water, minimize the introduction of harmful chemical fertilizers into the ecosystem, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by mowing.

Legal References: Code of Virginia, Sections 22.1-138, 22.1-138.1, 22.1-140, 22.1-141.1.

Policy
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FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD