FACILITIES

Facilities Design and Construction

Site Planning and Development

This policy supersedes Policy 8310.~~2~~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 removed.
- A landscaping sub paragraph in section VII.C (Landscaping) has been deleted.
- Legal references have been updated. ~~The office of responsibility has been changed.~~

III. PHILOSOPHY

The Fairfax County School Board ~~FCPS~~ 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.

III.IV. AUTHORITY

Sites shall be planned and developed ~~generally~~ in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, building codes, and ordinances, including but not limited to the Virginia Statewide Uniform Building Code, the Code of the County of Fairfax, and the regulations of the State Board of Education. Planning and development of sites shall be informed ~~and~~ by the recommendations of the *Guidelines for School Facilities in Virginia's Public Schools, with the understanding the recommendations set forth therein are advisory in nature and are not binding upon the School Board unless set forth in one of the authorities referenced above.* ~~*Virginia State Board of Education School Planning Manual* and in compliance with the Code of the County of Fairfax.~~

~~IV.~~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*~~*Virginia State Board of Education Planning Manual*~~. 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~~	~~10~~15	~~1~~
~~Sr. High or Combined School~~	~~20~~	~~1~~

~~V.~~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.

~~VI.~~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. The participation of the PTA, local garden cubs, and other interested organizations shall be encouraged in the implementation of approved landscaping plans.~~

~~D.~~ C. Drought-resistant landscaping techniques and materials will be used to conserve water, and maintenance-free plantings and products ~~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 stadium 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.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD