

Minnesota School Boards Association's
MSBA Playground Compliance Program

Outdoor Play Grants – Information & Application
“Building safe, accessible and green play areas”

Grant Introduction

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) is pleased to announce “Outdoor Play Grants” for Minnesota schools. These grants will serve to assist communities to build environmentally friendly, healthy, safe and accessible play areas for their children and are available for a limited time.

Grant Purpose

MSBA will provide matching cash grants of a minimum of \$2,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 to eligible candidates who demonstrate a strong desire to improve the overall safety, accessibility and health of their play areas.

Eligible Applicants

Any school, government or nonprofit entity is an eligible applicant. Multiple applications from an entity are acceptable.

General Requirements

Applicants must provide an overall scope, budget, design and timeline to build safe, accessible and compliant playgrounds for the children they serve. Also, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to providing matching dollars to this project. This detail is required in the scope and budget section of the application.

Grant funds will be used exclusively for the purchase of rubber tile playground surfaces and playground equipment. Grant funds cannot be used for the purchase of the required concrete sub-base or installation of the playground surfacing or equipment. These matching requirements are the responsibility of the grant applicant and can be in the form of cash and donations.

Our playground compliance partner, the National Playground Compliance Group (NPCG), is the exclusive designee to assist with the design, planning and installation of your new play area. Applicants are required to use the products and services provided by NPCG.

Grant Amounts, Selection and Criteria

In general, grant awards will be selected on a first-come, first-serve basis. The total amount of the grant award and selection of the recipients will be based on:

- Scheduled scope and details to the overall plan, including but not limited to, time lines and construction of the new play area
- Local matching amount and aggregate amount of entire project

Grant Amounts, Selection and Criteria (continued)

- Verifiable commitment of additional funding sources and amount of the local match
- Acknowledgement of efforts to create community awareness of its desire to build safe, healthy and accessible play areas

Application Deadline

All Outdoor Play Grant applications must be received no later than April 30, 2010. All grants will be evaluated and awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Award Notification and Timeline

1. February 23, 2010 : Grant applications are available
2. April 30, 2010 : Grant applications due, however they are on first come, first serve basis, so early submission is encouraged
3. May 14, 2010: Applicants will be notified of all award decisions
4. June 18, 2010: All necessary purchase orders between applicant and NPCG must be executed
5. September 30, 2010: All projects are required to be completed and certified

Delivery of Cash Grant

The cash grant will be delivered 30 days upon completion and compliance certification of project.

Matching Funds

All grant applicants must pledge funding for this project over and above the grant amount. This can be in the form of cash and/or donated materials for the project to cover the costs of:

- Site preparation and concrete
- Additional rubber tile surfacing to adequately cover use zones required by CPSC and create accessibility as required by ADA(AG) legislation
- Installation services
- Play or recreation area equipment purchase

Project Minimum

Project size or use zone area must be a minimum of 1,200 square feet to qualify for the grants.

Play Area Compliance

As a key provision to this grant, upon completion, all projects must comply with the standards and guidelines of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM) and Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC).

MSBA OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND GRANT APPLICATION

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest and effort in providing a compliant playground for your district. Please utilize this format and process when submitting your application.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

To ensure the compliance requirement of the play areas, the National Playground Compliance Group (NPCG) will act as the exclusive provider of products and services for this grant. As such, site visits and designs will be provided by NPCG's staff at no cost to the applicant. Please contact your state's NPCG program manager at 866-345-6774. A contact list is provided in Section D of this application.

Please submit a written application that details and describes the following:

SECTION A: OVERALL SCOPE AND GOALS FOR PLAY AREA

1. Strategy and goal of new play area
 - a. Please provide an overview as to your goal for the new play area: What opportunities do you plan to provide and what issues do you intend to provide solutions for?

2. Age of intended users
 - a. What age groups are you intending to serve with your play area?
 - i. Pre-K: Ages 2-5
 - ii. K-5: Ages 6-11
 - iii. Middle school: Ages 11+

3. Use zone area
 - a. What are your estimated square footage requirements for your play area?
 - b. If you are unsure, NPCG will assist you in this effort.

4. Type of equipment desired (list all that apply)
 - a. Traditional playground equipment
 - b. Pre-K/toddler area
 - c. Outdoor fitness area
 - d. Stand-alone events

5. Design of area
 - a. Surfacing and equipment design (please provide design drawing)
 - b. NPCG will provide designs following site visit

6. Timeline

- a. Please review the timelines of the grant process under Section C as you consider your application.
- b. The deadline to have all projects completed is September 30, 2010.
- c. Please provide a brief narrative as to how you will be able to commit to the necessary timeline.
 - i. Equipment — As a key consideration, if equipment is included in your application, you should plan for a minimum of 6 to 8 weeks from the time of order before the equipment would arrive on site. All equipment is custom ordered and 6 to 8 weeks is the normal manufacturing and shipping time to your site.
 - ii. Surfacing only – Required surfacing for projects is generally available in-stock and can be delivered within 2 to 4 weeks from the time of order.
 - iii. Concrete – Generally, concrete will be necessary for the project. You should plan for 2 to 3 days of a concrete pour and 7 to 10 days of “cure” time before work can begin.

SECTION B: BUDGET

1. Estimated budget for project: What is your estimated cost for each of the following program components?
 - a. Construction – excavation, concrete installation, drainage
 - b. Equipment and surfacing
 - c. Installation

Note: NPCG will provide these details in its final proposal to you.
2. Estimated total dollar amount for project:
 - a. What is the aggregate investment for the area?
3. Special considerations: Please provide a brief narrative of what special considerations you would plan to implement as part of the new playground project. This could include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Community Education
 - b. Grand openings
 - c. Press release/media exposure, etc.

SECTION C: IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINES

These grants will be provided on first come, first serve basis and will be highly competitive. As you would expect, most projects will want to be completed before Fall 2010 classes resume. Please review the grant award timelines and the necessary shipping and construction considerations.

Please provide your best estimate and commitment to the following timelines:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Grant announced:	<u>February 23, 2010</u>
2. Applications deadline:	<u>April 30, 2010</u>
3. All award decisions announced to applicants:	<u>May 14, 2010</u>
4. Board approval (if necessary):	_____
5. Purchase orders issued with down payment:	<u>June 18, 2010</u>
6. Estimated concrete work completed:	_____
7. Tile and equipment installation start date:	_____
8. Estimated completion date:	_____
9. Ribbon cutting/dedication (if desired):	_____
10. Compliance inspection/release:	_____
11. Children playing:	_____
12. All projects complete:	<u>September 30, 2010</u>

SECTION D: CONTACTS AND QUESTIONS

If you have any initial grant application questions, please e-mail MSBA's Tiffany Rodning at trodning@mnmsba.org or you may call 800-324-4459. E-mail communication is preferred.

All requests for site appointments, product questions, budget needs or playground specific questions should be directed to the NPCG. E-mail communication is preferred. Contacts are:

Amy Dickson
amy@playgroundcompliance.com
866-345-6774

Tim Mahoney
tim@playgroundcompliance.com
866-345-6774