



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENCE GUIDE

TITLE: Skateboard Activity Guidelines

NUMBER: REF-5311.0

ISSUER: John Sterritt, Director
Office of Environmental Health and Safety

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ROUTING
All Schools and Offices

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Reference Guide is to provide guidelines to be followed when establishing and operating a skateboard program on District sites.

MAJOR CHANGES: This is a new Reference Guide.

BACKGROUND: In order to supplement after-school activities for students, District after-school program providers have implemented skateboard programs at a few schools. While these programs have followed safety guidelines, due to the inherent risks associated with skateboarding and the increased demand for these programs, we are now establishing these formal guidelines. Skateboarding requires a high level of skill. The potential hazards related to skateboarding include, but are not limited to:

- Poor riding surface conditions (e.g., rocks, uneven pavement, cracks, etc.),
- Contact with vehicles, fixed objects, or other riders,
- Falling while trying to perform a stunt or trick, and
- Skateboards accidentally projected into other riders or spectators.

The most common injuries are minor bumps and bruises from falling. However, potential injuries could include sprains, fractures and head injuries, possibly resulting in brain damage or death.

INSTRUCTIONS: I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The guidelines delineated below are to be followed when establishing and operating a skateboard program on Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) sites:

- A. LAUSD will permit skateboard program activities only through an approved skateboard program provider that specializes in skateboard park programs. The skateboard program provider will supply the equipment and services.
- B. The school site administrator must authorize skateboard program activities prior to the start of any skateboard activities on campus.



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- C. Approval to enter into an agreement for any services will be contingent on the skateboard program provider agreeing to indemnify LAUSD and its Board of Education against any and all claims resulting from the negligent act(s) or omission(s) of the contracted skateboard program provider or the officers, agents or employees of the provider, and with the required insurance to support the indemnity. For additional information regarding certificates of insurance, contact the Division of Risk Management and Insurance Services at (213) 241-3139.
- D. Skateboarding shall only be conducted during daylight hours, under dry conditions, and under the supervision of trained staff.
- E. Skateboard programs will be conducted on secondary school sites only. The activity is intended for secondary school students only. Under no circumstance is a child under the age of 12 permitted to participate.
- F. A supervision ratio of a minimum of 1:15 (skateboard program staff to participants) must be maintained.
- G. In the event of injury, the skateboard program provider and the District must follow LAUSD protocols for injury reporting and investigation.
- H. Students participating must have a signed parent/guardian permission and waiver form and medical release on file with the skateboard program provider on site (Attachment A).

II. DESIGN AND PLANNING

- A. LAUSD staff, in collaboration with the skateboard program provider, will identify an appropriate area on the athletic field blacktop that is void of contact with motor vehicles, student foot traffic, and other activities.
- B. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) and Maintenance and Operations (M&O) will inspect the area prior to allowing the skateboard program provider the approval to operate.
- C. The designated and approved skateboard program area must be set up and outlined with cones so it is clearly delineated.
- D. The skateboard equipment must be designed and approved by a professional engineer or be industry approved.



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- E. The spectator area must be located at a safe distance (approximately 30 feet) away from the skate park activity.
- F. An area around the skateboard equipment must be set up for fallout in case a board is projected during a fall, or protective netting or equivalent must be provided around skate runs to impede out of control skateboards or falls from skaters.
- G. Adequate drainage must exist around the skateboard park to prevent water accumulation.
- H. Skateboard equipment (ramps, quarter pipes, etc.) must be portable and stored in a secure location daily, immediately after use. At no time can equipment be left unsecured and unsupervised. Built-in structures may be approved only if appropriate safeguards are developed to ensure unauthorized use is not possible. The program provider must use a daily checklist that documents the implementation of these safeguards.

III. PHYSICAL FACILITIES

- A. An emergency telephone must be located in close proximity to the skate park.
- B. Supervising staff shall be First Aid and CPR certified, and a first aid kit shall be located in close proximity to the skate park.
- C. Trained staff working for the skateboard program provider, prior to every set up and use, must determine the integrity of the equipment.
- D. Physical inspections shall be conducted daily and documented by skateboard program provider staff. All equipment shall be inspected for damage, cracks, separation, hardware, slip/trip/fall hazards. Defective skate park equipment must be removed from use and not put back into use until necessary repairs have been made.
- E. The skateboard program provider staff shall be responsible for providing a schedule of maintenance for the equipment.
- F. No equipment may be set up or used if there are any questions regarding its integrity.
- G. No students shall be involved in the assembly or installation of the skateboard park equipment.



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- H. Skateboard program provider staff will receive annual training by the skateboard program provider on the proper set up, program operation, and supervision, as well as on the guidelines set forth in Health and Safety Code Section 115800. Training shall be completed prior to working in the program.
- I. The training provided to the skateboard program provider staff will be aligned according to industry standards and LAUSD guidelines stated herein.
- J. LAUSD will require the skateboard program provider's staff to instruct all students on rules, guidelines, and use of equipment as a condition for their participation.
- K. Skateboard program provider staff will inspect helmets to ensure they are properly fitted and have straps and skateboards to ensure they are in good condition. Defective skateboards and equipment shall not be allowed.
- L. Hours that the skate park is in operation should be posted by the skate park rules. In no event shall the skateboard programs operate before dawn or after dark.
- M. In addition to inspections designated in bullet D, the program provider must conduct quarterly inspections and maintenance on skate park equipment. Maintenance and repair shall be conducted by qualified technicians. At no time may District staff provide maintenance of said equipment.
- N. The program provider must present safety guidelines and instruction for all individuals involved in the skateboard activities.
- O. Trash receptacles should be located near the area and shall not pose a hazard for the skaters.
- P. Proper personal protective equipment must be worn by all users of the skate park. Personal protective equipment shall be a minimum of an approved helmet, wrist braces, knee and elbow pads.
- Q. At a minimum, the following safety rules must be posted at entrances to the skateboarding area.
 - 1. The skateboard park is for LAUSD students only
 - 2. Skate at your own risk.
 - 3. No spectators allowed in skating area.



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4. No children under 12 may use skateboard equipment.
5. No food or drinks in the skate area.
6. No profanity, no horseplay; fighting and other disruptive behavior is strictly prohibited.
7. No glass bottles in the skate park.
8. Be considerate of other skate park users.
9. Know your abilities and skate within them. You must skate safely and remain in control at all times.
10. Do not wax the ramps or other skateboard equipment.
11. In the event of an emergency call 911.

**RELATED
RESOURCES:**

Information on low cost health insurance is available by contacting LAUSD's Children's Health Access and Medi-Cal Program (CHAMP) at (866) 742-2273 or visit the website at <http://CHAMP.lausd.net>. Students and their parents may also contact United HealthCare Insurance Company at (866) 409-5733, or www.k12studentinsurance.com, for affordable, group-rated student accident/health insurance.

ASSISTANCE:

For assistance or further information, please contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety at (213) 241-3199.