



This *Elevated Risk Activities Policy* rescinds and supersedes all previous policy, memoranda, and/or guidance promulgated by DCPS on this subject matter.

Chancellor Approval: Leana D. Fuller
Effective: July 7, 2025

Elevated Risk Activities Policy

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) mission is to ensure that students reach their full potential through rigorous and joyful learning experiences provided in a nurturing environment. Activities that pose safety risks beyond what would be expected during a typical school day (e.g., bounce houses and petting zoos) put that mission at risk and present additional liability for DCPS. Given that liability, effective immediately, inflatable attractions that students jump or climb on are not permitted under any circumstances and additional requirements apply to other elevated risk activities.

These requirements apply to any activity that poses additional risk that is operated by a DCPS school or on DCPS property, regardless of the funding source or event sponsor (e.g., school, PTA, or partner organization).

II. AUTHORITY AND APPLICABLE LAW¹

Source	Citation
District of Columbia Law	- D.C Official Code § 38-401 <i>et seq.</i> – Use of School Buildings
District of Columbia Municipal Regulations	Former Title 5-E - 5-E DCMR § 3500 <i>et seq.</i> – School Buildings and Grounds

III. KEY TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Elevated Risk Activities mean all activities that pose a safety risk beyond what would be expected during a typical school day (e.g., inflatables, petting zoo, or dunk tank).

Inflatable Attraction means a structure that is designed to be inflated with air or gas and used for entertainment. Inflatable attractions come in various forms, including bounces houses, obstacle courses, and slides.

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. Inflatable Attractions

Inflatable attractions that students jump or climb on are not permitted under any circumstances. This includes, but is not limited to, bounce houses and obstacle courses.

¹ Nothing in this directive shall supersede federal, state, or local law.

Inflatable attractions that students do not jump or climb on (e.g., inflatable bowling, inflatable soccer, or decorative inflatable arches) are permitted provided they are used within manufacturer guidelines, students are strictly prohibited from jumping or climbing on them under any circumstances, and the vendor meets all applicable insurance requirements.

B. Other Elevated Risk Activities

For all other activities that pose a safety risk beyond what would be expected during a typical school day (e.g., petting zoo, dunk tank, or inflatables that students do not climb in or on):

1. Schools must rent elevated risk attractions from vendors. They must not purchase and operate their own attractions. Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs) or comparable groups may purchase and operate attractions provided they meet applicable insurance requirements.
2. Vendors and PTOs must meet insurance requirements established by the DC Office of Risk Management (ORM) and DCPS, and a copy of the Certificate of Insurance (COI) must be provided to dcps.orm@k12.dc.gov for review. Please note that this review may take up to thirty (30) days.
 - For vendor-operated attractions, the insurance requirements include, but are not limited to, \$1M/\$2M Commercial General Liability Insurance and \$5M/\$5M Commercial Umbrella or Excess Liability.
 - The vendor/PTO insurance must name “The Government of the District of Columbia” as an Additional Insured and the Certificate Holder.
3. Schools must collect and keep on file *Liability and Waiver Release Forms*² for each participant, including adults and children who do not attend the school.
4. Vendors must set up the attraction and remain on-site during the event to supervise the attraction.
5. Schools must ensure that attractions are also supervised by a DCPS staff member for the duration of the event (or as long as the attraction is in use). These individuals are responsible for ensuring that:
 - The attraction does not exceed capacity guidelines shared by the vendor or in the product guidelines.
 - All other rules related to the use of the attraction (as shared by the vendor) are followed and, at a minimum, ensuring that participants:
 - Observe all size requirements. Follow all age minimums as well as weight and/or height restrictions the vendor establishes. Once the attraction is no longer in use, it must be closed so that no participant can access it. Once the attraction is inaccessible to participants, the DCPS staff member can end their supervision.
 - When applicable, avoid wild play. Do not allow flips or rough play, like tackling or wrestling. Prohibit activities where competitive physical contact is the primary goal.

² Available to DCPS Staff on the DCPS Way.

V. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

All DCPS employees, contractors, volunteers, and other people facilitating or supporting covered activities that are operated by a DCPS school or on DCPS property are required to comply with the requirements set forth in this policy.

For questions about whether an activity under consideration is subject to these requirements, please contact DCPS' Office of Risk Management at dcps.orm@k12.dc.gov.

DCPS is committed to serving every student with equity, excellence, transparency, and accountability. For any concerns about this policy or to report violations of it, contact the Office of Integrity by completing the Online Referral Form³ or emailing dcps.cio@k12.dc.gov.

³ Available at dcps.dc.gov/page/office-integrity.