

School District No. 36 (Surrey) - Risk Management Department Guidance for Schools on Sledding

Background:

Due to the number and severity of past sledding injuries, Risk Management has developed the following guidance for schools on sledding.

Authority:

The Principal has the ultimate authority in deciding whether or not to allow sledding on the school grounds.

Primary Recommendation:

Given the potential for serious injury, and specifically head injuries, Risk Management recommends that sledding not be allowed on school grounds where the sledding area presents an inherent risk to student safety. All sledding injuries must be reported.

Safety Considerations:

If sledding on school grounds the following safety measures are recommended:

- Communicate clearly to staff, students and parents the school's rules regarding sledding (ie: areas to be used, one at a time, supervision, etc.)
- Advise parents that experts recommend a helmet be worn when sledding, however, that decision is up to parents – they should provide a helmet if they want their child to wear one
- Clearly designate the sledding area, having first checked there are no significant bumps or obstructions, and designate a separate walking up area that does not infringe on the sledding down area
- Clearly designate the times during which sledding can be done (note: it is the Principal's decision if this activity is curricular and therefore allowed during instructional time or if the activity is to be restricted to recess and /or lunch)
- Ensure adequate adult supervision with a minimum of one supervisor at the top of the slope and one supervisor at the bottom of the slope
- Shut down the sledding activity if the slope turns to ice
- Shut down the sledding activity at the first sign of the ground showing through (significant school grounds damage can be caused by sledding)

Please Practice Safe Sledding / Sliding!