

THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
10910 Clarksville Pike  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Circular No. 20  
Series 2016–2017

August 25, 2016

Chief Operating Officer

Inflatable/Powered Amusement Rides/Structures on  
School Grounds

To: All Staff

From: Anissa Brown Dennis, Acting Chief Operating Officer

This circular provides guidance regarding the use of inflatable or powered amusements / structures such as, but not limited to, slides, obstacle courses, moon bounces, fun houses, competitive games, planetariums, swings, bucket and mechanical bull rides on school property.

Howard County Public School System Users

- The Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) may not enter into any formal or informal contractual agreement for placing inflatable rides, inflatable structures and powered rides at schools or school facilities.
- Employees are not permitted to supervise or participate in the operation of any of these rides or structures placed on school property by non-school groups - PTA, Boosters, etc.
- Inflatable rides and structures or powered rides are not permitted indoors at HCPSS facilities.
- Education related structures such as planetariums require prior approval from the HCPSS office of Safety, Environment and Risk Management and the Howard County Fire Marshall Office.
- The Howard County Public School System or an individual school may not sponsor or co-sponsor activities which have inflatable / mechanical amusement rides.

User Groups (PTA , Boosters, etc.)

- Inflatables may be permitted on outside school grounds. Indoor use is prohibited.
- A trained operator for each inflatable attraction must be present at all times. Proper documentation of operator training must be available.
- The user group and vendor are responsible for compliance with applicable County and State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation codes or regulations governing amusements and crowd management.
- Powered rides are not permitted on school property without prior approval of the Use of School Facilities and the Safety, Environment and Risk Management Offices.

Questions about certain types of rides may be made to the Office of Safety, Environment and Risk Management at 410-313-6739.

ABD/TS/vw