

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

Circular No. 32  
Series 2019–2020

October 29, 2019

Division of Operations

Inflatable/Powered Amusement Rides/Structures on  
School Grounds

To: All Staff

From: Scott W. Washington, 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 and Security and the Howard County Fire Marshal Office.
- HCPSS 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 Howard County and State of Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation codes or regulations governing amusements and crowd management.
- Outdoor powered rides **may be permitted** on school grounds, with specific contracts and prior approvals, in collaboration with Use of School Facilities Office and the Office of Safety and Security (Risk Management).

Questions about any type of rides may be made to the Office of Safety and Security (Risk Management) at 410-313-6739.

SWW/PvG/vw