

Zone Mapping Your Play Area

1.) Obtain an aerial photo of your school's outdoor play area.

- a.) If you do not already have one, you can easily make one.
 - i.) Find your school on Google Maps.
 - ii.) Zoom in & take a screenshot of the outdoor play area.



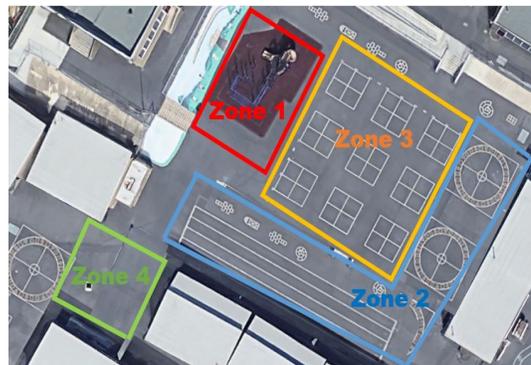
2.) Now, visually assess the play areas you have.

- a.) You must consider how many play zones are best for your school.
 - i.) You will want to have between 2-5 zones depending on your setup and schedule. Typically, no more than 5 zones are necessary.
 - ii.) Draw lines to create zones based on what is already physically there, avoiding any safety hazards.
- b.) You must consider how many children are at recess at one time and how many staff are at recess at one time.
 - i.) Can your recess supervisors see all of the zones for proper supervision?

3.) Designate separate areas for play, called "zones," on your photo.

- a.) Either print photo and draw zones or use a photo editor on the computer to draw zones on photo. Use colors to differentiate between zones.
- b.) Zoning will be very particular to your school. Use the physical boundaries unique to your school to create zones. Below are 5 general categories that may help when designating zones:

- i.) 1. Play Structure
- ii.) 2. Small group games
- iii.) 3. Large group games
- iv.) 4. Field games
- v.) 5. Individual games



- c.) These 5 categories can be located in any physical space that works best for your play area, so evaluate the areas you have and coordinate the types of play zones you want for your school's recess.
- d.) Don't forget to include varying types of activities, including: motor skills games, free play, aerobic/fitness games, stretching and flexibility, etc.
- e.) Make sure to designate the game equipment storage area and the game equipment area during recess. Allow for easy access to equipment.