ISCOLE School Audit Tool (ISAT) Specific Item Definitions, Instructions for Quality Control, and Tips

I. A. Access to the School

ltem	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
School Entrance	School entrance: an entrance to the school grounds <u>at the border of the</u> <u>school property</u> that students (or parents bringing their children) use to get onto the school grounds.	All school entrances should be verified with the school contact person.
	If a school has separate "entrance" and "exit" openings for cars, only the "entrance" opening should be counted as a school entrance. However, if the car exit-only has features that allow pedestrians and/or cyclists to safely enter the school grounds (i.e. a connecting sidewalk from the street into the school grounds and/or a crosswalk), then it would be counted as an entrance for pedestrians and cyclists, but not for cars/buses.	
	Informal openings through fences, for example, should not be counted as an entrance without some evidence of use. Evidence could include an obvious worn path, or confirmation of use by students or the school contact person.	
	A central tenet of the school audit is assessing features according to their function. Therefore, an opening onto the school ground should only be considered an entrance if it functions as one.	
Accessible	Many entrances will be primarily accessed by cars. Mark "pedestrian" or "bicycle" if the entrance is safely accessible by a 10-year old child walking or biking to school accompanied by an adult.	Check all that apply. Accessible by car can also mean accessible by school buses (i.e. a school bus only entrance).
	Q: What if it is illegal to ride a bike on a sidewalk, but students on bikes use certain entrance by riding their bikes on the sidewalk? Should the entrance be counted as accessible by bikes (even though technically illegal)? A: As a default, follow the local law in determining accessibility. However, if the school endorses the use of the entrance by cyclists (even if technically illegal), then count it as accessible.	
	Q: What if parents are not allowed to drive their cars onto the school grounds, is this still a car entrance?A: If any cars are allowed to access the school grounds using that entrance, then the entrance should be counted as a car entrance	

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Designed for use by	Many entrances will be primarily designed for car use. Refer to the Appendix 5 and the following definitions to help identify entrances designed for pedestrians and/or cyclists.	Check all that apply. Some entrances may not be designed for any mode of transportation.
	 Designed for use by pedestrians: an entrance that has features that support its safe use by pedestrians, such as School entrance connected to the existing sidewalk network, such that it is possible to walk from the surrounding neighbourhood to the front door of the school on continuous sidewalks or other paths. Pedestrians do not have to traverse a large parking lot or vehicular zone to get to a school entry. If an entrance is shared with cars, there should be a sidewalk or other mechanism through the entrance (e.g., median, curb, planting buffer) that permits physical separation of pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Designed for use by cyclists: an entrance that has features that support its safe use by cyclists, such as School entrance connected to the existing bicycle route (in some areas, sidewalks may be used for bicycling, especially by younger children). Cyclists should not have to traverse a large parking lot or vehicular zone to get to a school entry. If an entrance is shared with cars, there should be a sidewalk or other mechanism through the entrance (e.g., median, curb, planting buffer). Cyclists should not have to traverse a large parking lot or vehicular zone to get to a school entry. If an entrance is shared with cars, there should be a sidewalk or other mechanism through the entrance (e.g., median, curb, planting buffer) that permits physical separation of pedestrians and vehicular traffic. Bicycle racks located on the route from the entrance to a school entry. 	Designed for cars can also mean designed for school buses.
Official/unofficial school entrance	Official school entrances will be easy to identify and will have been mentioned during the first consultation with the school contact person. An official entrance is an entrance to the school grounds that is designed as an entrance. A school may have several official entrances, i.e., primary and secondary official entrances.	The school contact person may forget to mention unofficial school entrances during the initial meeting, so it is a good idea to specifically ask about unofficial entrances.
	An unofficial school entrance is one that is used by students to access the campus but not considered an official entrance, i.e., that is not designed as an entrance or considered an official entrance by the school contact person. An example would be an opening in the fence with a walking path leading to an adjoining neighbourhood.	If you notice an entrance not mentioned by the School Contact Person, you should have another meeting with the School Contact Person (MOP, Step 1.4) to clear up whether the entrance is an unofficial one or an entrance that students are discouraged from using.
	Any informal entrances that students do use (i.e., evidence of use) but are told not to use (per School Contact) should be indicated with the checkbox for "Not Allowed".	

ltem	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
Opens onto a	Car entrances will generally open directly onto a road. Pedestrian/cyclist	
road	entrance may directly open onto a road or be connected via a path or sidewalk	

	to a nearby road (e.g., within a neighbourhood). If a pedestrian/cyclist entrance is connected to a nearby road, it should be counted as opening onto a road. If pedestrian/bike entrance does not physically connect (via pavement or path) to a road, the entrance may still be considered to open onto a road if the traffic or speed limit of the nearby road would impact children transporting to school and entering/exiting via the entrance. For example, data collectors could look for a worn path from the entrance to the street or try to observe whether students observed crossing the street from that entrance.	
Speed limit of adjacent road	Many roads adjacent to schools have alternate speed limits, especially for times during the day when students may be travelling to and from school. <u>In these cases, the "school zone" posted speed limit should be listed on the Audit Tool.</u> When there are no special "school zone" speed limits, the speed limit of the adjacent road is the posted speed limit, or, in the absence of speed limit signs, the normal speed limit (e.g., the municipality has a law setting normal speed limits for certain areas like residential areas).	
Roadside parking	 This may be formal or informal roadside parking that enables walking access to the school. Indicate "No" if there are signs indicating that parking is not allowed. [Note: In Bangalore, "no parking" signs are ignored and not enforced. Roadside parking is common practice. After discussion, we decided to allow roadside parking to be counted, despite the "no parking" signs. In the future, it might be worthwhile to change add an appropriate item response option.] 	

I. B. Surrounding Area

Item	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
Mixture of different land	Mixture: any two (or more) of the different land use choices each make up at least 1/3 of the area surrounding the school.	Do not record your impression until after walking the entire school boundary.
uses	For example, 40% residential and 60% business would be considered a mixture. 80% residential and 10% business and 10% parks would be considered predominantly residential.	
3. Somewhere were parents can stop and drop children off?	This could be anywhere where it is possible for parents to stop for a short time even if parking is not permitted. Roads with "No Stopping" signs should not be counted, however.	If unsure, the technician should verify with the School Contact and/or attempt to observe a student pick- up/drop-off time during the school day.

Definition	Quality Control and Tips
This could be a layby, road, car park, or parking lot where parents can park and	"Yes" should be indicated if roadside parking is available
leave their cars. Do not include roads or areas that are "permit only" parking.	on an adjacent road (from Q1 on audit).
still be counted.	
[Note: In Bangalore "no parking" signs are ignored and not enforced Roadside	
parking to be counted, despite the "no parking" signs. In the future, it might be	
worthwhile to change add an appropriate item response option.]	
This also includes any other public transportation stops.	Be careful to familiarize yourself with locations of bus stops in the area surrounding the school. Sometimes
If a bus stop is not visible because obstructed by a building or a tree (for	bus stop signs are small and difficult to see from a school
	entrance, although the bus stop itself is visible and
	should be identified.
This item is measuring whether the school is accessible by public transportation	In some countries, bus/public transportation stops may
	not be indicated with a sign. The school contact person
	can inform about the location of bus/public transportation
	stops near the school grounds.
A bus stop that is not visible due to being around a corner/curve but is located	
with a ¼ mile (400m) can be counted.	
Cycle lanes on the road are lanes in which cars are not allowed but which	
adjoin the road with just a line separating them (no physical separation).	
Cycle lanes separated from the road are lanes which are physically separated	
from the road, for example, with a curb separating the road and bike lane.	
Cycle lanes separated from the road include shared footpath/cyclepaths, which	
are for use by both cyclists and pedestrians and should be signed as such.	
Pavements/sidewalks include shared footpath/cyclepaths.	
	 This could be a layby, road, car park, or parking lot where parents can park and leave their cars. Do not include roads or areas that are "permit only" parking. Locations that restrict parking to a certain length of time (e.g., 5 minutes) should still be counted. [Note: In Bangalore, "no parking" signs are ignored and not enforced. Roadside parking to be counted, despite the "no parking" signs. In the future, it might be worthwhile to change add an appropriate item response option.] This also includes any other public transportation stops. If a bus stop is not visible because obstructed by a building or a tree (for example), but would otherwise be visible because of how close it is to the entrance, it should be counted. This item is measuring whether the school is accessible by public transportation and whether students could safely walk to a school entrance from the stop. Other transportation options (for example, paid "taxis" in South Africa) may be counted if there is a regular "route" or "stop" that children can access for transport to/from school. A bus stop that is not visible due to being around a corner/curve but is located with a ¼ mile (400m) can be counted. Cycle lanes separated from the road are lanes which are physically separated from the road, for example, with a curb separating the road and bike lane. Cycle lanes separated from the road include shared footpath/cyclepaths, which are for use by both cyclists and pedestrians and should be signed as such.

Item	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
9. Traffic calming	Traffic calming refers to physical measures to reduce <u>traffic speeds, volume,</u> and/or visual impact. These include such physical measures as crosswalks,	Because pedestrian crossings are assessed separately, do not count them for this question.
	raised crosswalks, pedestrian islands, traffic circles/roundabouts, medians or	
	center island narrowings, speed bumps/humps/cushions, and width restrictions.	Special speed restrictions, like school zone speed limits, should not be counted as traffic calming.
	Technicians should only count traffic calming measures exterior to the school	
	grounds. This item relates to support for active transportation by the students;	
	therefore, traffic calming measures in the area surrounding the school are the relevant.	
	Permanent radar speed signs may be counted as traffic calming mechanisms.	
10a. School	These are signs for road users that warn road users that there is a school	A single sign may only be counted once in the most
warning signs for	nearby. These include school zone speed limit signs or flashing lights to	appropriate category.
road users	designate a school zone.	
10b. Road safety	These are signs for road users emphasizing road safety for pedestrians,	A single sign may only be counted once in the most
signs (e.g., "look both ways")	cyclists, and/or drivers.	appropriate category.
	These are signs additional to those used for normal traffic management, like stop signs.	
10c. Route signs	This is signage implemented to guide cyclists and to improve roadway safety for	
for cyclists	cyclists, pedestrians and drivers.	
	There are three general categories of signage, including posted signs, roadway markings and electronic signals.	
11. Fast food	Fast food restaurants are defined as food service outlets that offer quick service	Street vendors selling fruit only should not be counted.
restaurants	and "take away" food, with waited table service absent.	Fruit is not considered prepared food.
	These can include convenience stores if <u>prepared</u> , take-away food as well as street vendors located outside of the school grounds.	The technician must view the street vendor to count them. The audit should not be completed based on report only. If vendors are present after school hours, the
	Fast food restaurants that are not visible due to being around a corner/curve but are located with a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (400m) can be counted.	technician should plan a visit during the time where they are present in order to view them and to record their presence.

ltem	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
School Grounds	The school grounds are defined as the area within the school boundaries that are accessible to students over the age of 5 years (or elementary school age and older). Any areas exclusively used by children ≤5 years (or "pre-school" age) should not be counted. For items 12-19, free/no-cost access amenities that are located outside of the school boundaries, but that are used routinely by students and essentially function as an extension of the school boundaries, can be counted. To be counted, the students should have the same level of access to the amenity that they would have if it were part of the school grounds. For the play space items (12-16), students should be able to access these amenities during recess/breaks for the amenities to be counted. If a free/no-cost sports amenity is located far enough away from the school grounds that transportation from school to the amenity may be an issue for students, then the sports amenity should not be counted.	
Functional/ Non- functional	 A functional amenity is one that is in good enough condition to work for its planned purpose. Functional amenities are of "good" or "adequate" quality. "Good" quality means that the amenity is well-maintained with no visible damage, and is clearly fit for its purpose. "Adequate" quality means that the feature shows some wear, damage or lack of maintenance, but its use is not impaired. A non-functional amenity is one whose condition is so poor that it is not useable for its planned purpose; non-functional amenities are generally of "poor" quality. Non-functional can also mean that the amenity is under construction and currently not available to students for use. 	If an amenity is non-functional because it is under construction, please create a thread in the school audit forum regarding the construction/plans so we have a record of why the amenity was marked non-functional. Non-functional can also mean not maintained, such as a school vegetable garden that has a raised bed, but is overgrown with weeds and is not maintained.
12. Outdoor paved area that can be used for active games	 Paved area: hard surface area (for example, an area covered by concrete) An outdoor paved area for active games would not have sports-specific lines or other infrastructure to support its use for specific sports. A paved area in this category could have basketball hoops but not be specifically/primarily for basketball use. A non-functional example would be one where the paved area was used for active play at some point in the past (past use either obvious or confirmed by school contact person) but is no longer considered safe for children to play on. If a school has a paved area used for active games during recess/breaks, but which is under a roof, it can be counted. A gymnasium would not be counted in this item, however. 	 In most cases, an outdoor paved area used by the students for physical activity should be considered either "used for active games" or "paved court for sport," but not both. Do not count a single paved area in both categories unless (a) large enough to support both types of activities and having separate, distinct activity areas (i.e., some for active, free play and other for specific sports) <u>or</u> (b) the single area serves as a paved court but also serves as a paved area for active, free play depending on the group using the area (e.g., for different age groups).

Item	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
14. Grassy or soft surface play area	A "play area" is distinguished from a "sports field" by not having sports-specific lines or other infrastructure to support its use for specific sports.	In most cases, a grassy area used by the students should be considered either as a "play area" or an an "outdoor sports field," but not both.
	A non-functional example would be one where the area was used for play at some point in the past (past use either obvious or confirmed by school contact person) but is so worn or poorly-maintained (e.g., grass not mown) that children are no longer permitted to play there.	A single grassy area can be counted in both categories if the single area serves as a sports field but also serves as a grassy area for active, free play (e.g., for different age groups).
	Sandy play areas (for example, a sandy courtyard) can be counted as soft surface, but be careful about the quality of the surface. Hard dirt areas should not be counted as grassy/soft surface. Sand pits should not be counted here, but rather in "Other."	A sports field that is unavailable for student play and solely used for sports practice and/or events should not be considered a "grassy play area."
15. Assault course/fitness course	An assault course or fitness course refers to a sequence of pieces of equipment designed to be used together. The course is often accompanied by posted instructions.	
	An assault course/fitness course may also be counted as playground equipment <u>only if</u> children also use the equipment (or pieces of the equipment) as playground equipment.	
16. Playground equipment	According to playground equipment manufacturers, playground equipment falls into various types, such as the following: swings, slides, climbers, see- saws/teeters/rockers, interactive panels, horizontal ladders, bridges, tunnels, playhouses, and various pieces of equipment for independent play.	Across all playgrounds on the campus, count the number of different <u>functional</u> types of playground equipment. This measures the diversity of playground equipment for the students.
	See the photo-dictionary and online resources for examples. (Some online resources:	Broken/non-functional types should be counted in the denominator in assessing the overall quality.
	<pre>(Some online resources: http://kaboom.org/build_playground/toolkit/construction/pre_planning, http://www.playland-inc.com/ , http://www.byoplayground.com/)</pre>	

Item	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
17. Outdoor	A "sports field" is distinguished from a "play area" field by having sports-specific	In most cases, a grassy area used by the students
sports fields	lines or other infrastructure to support its use for specific sports.	should be considered either as a "play area" or as an "outdoor sports field," but not both.
	An outdoor sports field would be a grassy/soft surface area that also has sports-	
	specific infrastructure. (For example, a volleyball court in a sandy courtyard	A single grassy area can be counted in both categories if
	could be counted.)	the single area serves as a sports field but also serves as a grassy area for active, free play (e.g., for different age
	Outdoor sports fields would be suitable for hosting sports competitions, whether inter-school or intra-school competitions.	groups).
		A sports field that is unavailable for student play and
	A sports field that adjoins the school campus and is used by students, but not owned by the school, can be counted because it is available to the students and functions as a sports field for them.	solely used for sports practice and/or events should not be considered a "grassy play area."
	A non-functional example would be one where the infrastructure is broken/absent, grass is either too high or dead, and/or lines are worn to the	
	point where the field can no longer support the sport that it was designed for.	
18. Running track	A running track may be a traditional, formal oval-shaped track or may be linear,	
	more informal tracks that also function as a running track for the students.	
	See Appendix 5 (photo-dictionary) for examples.	
19. Paved courts	A paved court for sport is distinguished form an outdoor paved area for active	In most cases, an outdoor paved area used by the
for sport	games by having sports-specific lines or other infrastructure to support its use	students for physical activity should be considered either
	for specific sports.	"used for active games" or "paved court for sport," but not both.
	A non-functional example would be one where the sports infrastructure is	
	broken/absent, pavement is cracked/damaged to the extent that sports may be	Do not count a single paved area in both categories
	dangerous, and/or lines are worn to the point where the paved area can no longer support the sport that it was designed for.	unless (a) large enough to support both types of activities and having separate, distinct activity areas (i.e., some for
		active, free play and other for specific sports) or (b) the
	If a school has a paved area for sport, but which is under a roof, it can be	single area serves as a paved court but also serves as a
	counted. A gymnasium would not be counted in this item, however.	paved area for active, free play depending on the group
20/21/22. Other	The "other" category is used to record amenities not included on the Audit Tool	using the area (e.g., for different age groups). Whenever possible, take a photograph of the "other"
	that facilitate students' being physically active.	amenity so that it can be shown in the photo-dictionary
	Sand nite/sand haves should be recorded in "Other "	(Appendix 5).
	Sand pits/sand boxes should be recorded in "Other."	
	Other examples of "Other" across sites: shed containing sports equipment for	
	children to use during recess; arts and crafts shed that is open during recess.	

Item	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
23. Wildlife/	A wildlife garden is a garden specifically designed, generally through its choice	
nature garden	of plants, to attract/support wildlife. For example, a garden may be planted with	
	plants that attract birds or butterflies, giving students the opportunity to see this	
	"wildlife" up close. A wildlife garden is not just a "wild" garden but is specifically	
	maintained to attract/support wildlife. It does not need to be freely accessible to	
	students to be identified on the Audit Tool.	
	A nature garden is a garden designed to provide a spot of respite, and/or	
	appreciation of nature and being outside, for the students. As part of its design,	
	a nature garden allows the children to be "inside" the garden.	
24. Vegetable	A vegetable garden is a garden in which vegetables or other edible plants, such	
garden	as herbs, are grown.	
25. Benches	Any part of the school built environment that provides seating for the students	Benches that are part of the lunch or classroom area
	can be considered a bench. Some "benches" may not be a traditional stand-	should not be counted. Benches in areas that students
	alone bench that could seat 3-4 children. To count non-traditional benches for	are not allowed to access should not be counted.
	the Audit Tool, estimate how many sets of 3-4 children could sit on the non-	
	traditional bench. See the photo-dictionary (Appendix 5) for examples.	
26. Picnic tables	Picnic tables are outdoor tables with attached seating that students can use to	
	eat their lunch or snacks, or just for additional outdoor seating. Tables that are	
	part of the lunch area and not part of the students' play/outdoors area should	
	not be counted. See the photo-dictionary (Appendix 5) for examples.	
27. Drinking	A functional drinking fountain is one that produces drinkable water for the	Check each drinking fountain for function.
fountains	students. The temperature (cold or ambient temperature) or taste of the water	
	should not be a factor in determining function.	
28. Cycle parking	See the photo-dictionary (Appendix 5) for examples.	
	Each space on the rack that can accommodate one bike should be counted as	
	functional. A space that cannot accommodate a bike (e.g. because of a bent	
	frame or placement of the rack near a tree, wall, etc.) should be counted as	
	non-functional.	
	A space within the school grounds that is specifically designated for bike	
	storage by the school (shows that the school has done something to support	
	active transportation to school) can be counted. If the space does not include	
	racks, the technician should estimate how many bikes could be parked.	
	If students are allowed to bring bikes/scooters into the classroom, this can be	
	counted as cycle parking.	
29. Secure cycle	A secure cycle parking area is an area either secured during the school day,	Be on the lookout for security cameras "watching over"
parking	within view from a main building, or with frequent student/teacher traffic such	areas where bikes are parked.
	that it would be difficult for someone to have the opportunity to steal a bike.	

ltem	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
30. Split site	A school campus with a split site is one where a road crosses the school grounds or where parts of the school grounds are some distance from the main school building.	Ask the school contact person whether the campus occurs on a split site.
	Q: If there is a public use area across the street, which is counted as part of the school grounds (per the definition of school grounds) even if not technically part of the school campus, should this be counted as a split site or not? A: Yes, this can be counted as a split site.	
31. Flat, sloping/ undulating	A school campus with grounds that are predominantly sloping/undulating would be characterized by frequent uphill and/or downhill climbs throughout the school audit assessment. Such a campus may not be able to support sports fields, as these must generally be sited on flat areas.	
	A school campus with some different levels (e.g., requiring someone to go up/down small sets of steps throughout the campus) but without a general impression of uphill/downhill should be considered flat. If a slope underlies the terracing, however, the grounds should be considered sloping/undulating.	
	See the photo-dictionary (Appendix 5) for examples.	

I. D. Aesthetics

ltem	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
32. Planted beds	Planted beds are clearly delineated areas with flowers, shrubs, or small trees, where walking is restricted.	
	This can include plants in pots that function to beautify the school grounds.	
33. Trees for sitting under	This includes trees under which children could sit, either on the ground or on seating.	A tree within a clearly restricted planted bed should not be counted.
34. Ambient noise	"Ambient" noise means noise in the immediate surroundings.	
	Noise refers to background sounds that are loud, unpleasant, unexpected, or undesired. Noise is not the same thing as sound; noise is unpleasant sound.	
	"Some" background noise means that background noise can be heard but not enough to irritate or disturb you during your visit.	
	"A lot" of ambient noise is enough to irritate/disturb you or impact your ability to hold a conversation with someone at a given location on the campus.	
	Additional guidelines may be forthcoming to minimize subjectivity.	

ltem	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
36. Murals/ outdoor art	Outdoor visual features, such as painted murals, mosaics, and sculptures, whose purposes may include beautifying the school campus, inspiring the students, and/or providing examples of creative skill and imagination for the students. This art may be religious in nature.	
	The murals or art should be located outdoors or in the children's play area in order to be counted. Artwork around classroom areas, like in hallways, should not be counted	
	See the photo-dictionary (Appendix 5) for examples.	
37. Graffiti	Graffiti includes writing or drawings that are written, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface. See the photo-dictionary (Appendix 5) for examples.	

I. E. Usage

Item	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
38/39/40. Are the	Remember, children will play anywhere. These items are not assessing	
school grounds	whether children play on the school grounds but instead the degree to which	
generally suitable	the school grounds support the students to play sports, to play informal games,	
for?	or to engage in general play.	
	These responses provide an overall impression based on the amenities	
	available, how well maintained the school grounds/amenities are, etc.	

II. School Food Environment

Item	Definition	Quality Control and Tips
41. School shop/ store	A school shop/store is defined as either a permanent or impermanent/mobile on-campus location for students to purchase food, snacks, or drinks beyond what the food/drink that is available for students to purchase for lunch.	
	It may also be a space in the canteen or cafeteria where students can purchase food/drinks outside of what is available for students to purchase for lunch.	
	The audit should assess the food/drinks available for purchase outside of the lunch period.	
42. Vending machines	A vending machine is a machine that automatically dispenses food or beverages after the consumer inserts a certain amount of money.	