

PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

While the district's school buildings and grounds are maintained primarily for the purpose of educating students within the district, the Board of Education recognizes that the buildings and grounds are a valuable community resource and believes that this resource should be available to the community for specific uses that will not interfere with educational activities. This policy is intended to identify the uses that community groups may make of those facilities.

Permitted Uses

District facilities may be used for the purposes listed below, subject to the conditions and restrictions set forth in this policy.

- A. Instruction in any branch of education, learning or the arts.
- B. Public library purposes, subject to provisions of the Education Law, or as stations of public libraries.
- C. Social, civic and recreational meetings and entertainments, or other uses pertaining to the welfare of the community so long as such uses are non-exclusive and open to the general public.
- D. Meetings, entertainment and occasions where admission fees are charged, when the proceeds are to be spent for an educational or charitable purpose.
- E. Polling places for holding primaries and elections, for the registration of voters.
- F. Civic forums and community centers.
- G. Recreation, physical training and athletics, including competitive athletic contests of children attending a private, nonprofit school.
- H. Child-care programs when school is not in session, or when school is in session for the children of students attending schools of the district and, if there is additional space available, for children of employees of the district.
- I. Graduation exercises held by not-for-profit elementary and secondary schools, provided that no religious service is performed.

Prohibited Uses

Any use not permitted by this policy is prohibited. In addition, the following uses are specifically prohibited.

- A. Meetings sponsored by political organizations.
- B. Meetings, entertainments and occasions that are under the exclusive control of and the proceeds are to be applied for the benefit of a society, association or organization of a religious sect or denomination or of a fraternal, secret or exclusive society or organization,

other than veterans' organizations or volunteer fire fighters or volunteer ambulance workers.

Conditions of Use for District Facilities

- A. Use of district facilities may be permitted unless such facilities are in use for school purposes, or during educational programs. The district reserves exclusive and non-reviewable judgment to determine if a requested use would interfere with or disturb the district's educational programs.
- B. To ensure that district facilities are preserved for the benefit of the greater district community, only community-based groups and organizations (that is, groups which are located within the geographic area covered by the district), and which are not commercial groups, may be granted access to district facilities.
- C. Use of district facilities will be permitted only where the applicant agrees to pay the district a user fee according to a schedule adopted by the district to cover the costs of heat, electricity, maintenance, custodial services and any other expenses associated with the requested use. Use is further conditioned upon the applicant's agreement to pay additional fees associated with the use of any additional services or equipment. The district retains the right to condition use upon an applicant depositing with the district a sum equaling the estimated costs and fees associated with the proposed use 10 days in advance of the requested use. The district retains the further right to waive user fees for groups that are associated with or sponsored by the district.
- D. Where, in the judgment of the district, the requested use of district facilities requires special equipment or supervision, the district reserves the right to deny such use, or in the alternative, to condition such use upon the applicant's payment of additional fees in accordance with paragraph C above. Only authorized personnel shall operate district equipment.
- E. Use of district facilities will only be permitted where the organization provides the district timely evidence of adequate insurance coverage (\$1,000,000 minimum) to save the district harmless from all liability, property damage, personal injuries and/or medical expenses. The district will exercise complete and unreviewable discretion regarding what constitutes adequate insurance coverage for each proposed use.
- F. The Board reserves the discretion to deny use of district facilities described above, or to terminate use of district facilities:
 - 1. By an applicant who has previously misused or abused district facilities or property or who has violated this policy;
 - 2. For any use which could have the effect of violating the Establishment Clause of the United States Constitution or other provisions of the United States or New York State Constitutions;

3. For any use which, in the estimation of the Board, could reasonably be expected to or actually does give rise to a riot or public disturbance;
 4. For any use which the Board deems inconsistent with this policy;
 5. For any use by a private for-profit entity that has the direct or indirect effect of promoting the products or services of such entity;
 6. In any instance where alcoholic beverages or unlawful drugs are sold, distributed, consumed, promoted or possessed;
 7. For any use prohibited by law.
- G. No persons shall be allowed in a school building unless appropriate school personnel are on duty.

Use of School Facilities by School Personnel

Any use of school facilities for school-related activities will be scheduled through the Building Principal. Any other use outside the regular school day/week must be approved through the Superintendent of Schools or designee through the use of the District application form. Recognized collective bargaining units may use school facilities to conduct meetings as specified in the collective bargaining agreement(s). Scheduling in advance will help to ensure that the space requested is available and not given to outside groups.

Ref: Education Law §414

Adoption date: May 9, 2016