

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The district facilities belong to the community, which paid for them for the primary purpose of offering a full educational program for its children. Prudent use and management of school facilities outside of the regular operating schedules--providing that such use does not interfere with the orderly conduct of a thorough and efficient system of education--allows the community to benefit more broadly from the use of its own property. Facility use privileges are renewable and revocable at the board's discretion at any time.

Regular school activities, whether day or evening, shall have priority for use of all school facilities. The board will permit the use of school facilities when such permission has been requested in writing and has been approved by the chief school administrator for:

- A. Uses and groups directly related to the school and the operations of the school;
- B. Uses and organizations indirectly related to the school;
- C. Departments or agencies of the municipal government;
- D. Other governmental agencies;
- E. Community organizations formed for charitable, civic or educational purposes.

The use of school facilities shall not be granted for the advantage of any commercial or profit-making organization, private social functions, or any purpose which is prohibited by law.

In the event the chief school administrator deems it advisable, any application may be submitted to the board of education for action.

The chief school administrator or board of education may refuse to grant the use of a school building whenever in their judgment there is good reason why permission should be refused.

Smoking is prohibited at all times in any district building or on school grounds. No one may bring alcoholic beverages onto any school property. All facility use shall comply with state and local fire, health, safety and police regulations.

An individual with a Black Seal License is required to be on duty at all times when the building is open for use. The board retains the right to charge for that and other custodial services and/or building usage.

The buildings shall not be available for community use during holidays, vacation periods, or during the time school is not in session over the summer when the programs interfere with cleaning and maintenance schedules.

Any group or organization using the school facilities must maintain order and discipline, and protect school property. They will be responsible for the condition in which they leave the school premises and will be responsible for any damaged school property.

Use of school equipment in conjunction with the use of school facilities must be specifically requested in writing and may be granted by the procedure by which permission to use facilities is granted. The user of school equipment must accept liability for any damage to or loss of such equipment that occurs while it is in use. Where rules so specify, no item of equipment may be used except by a qualified operator.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (continued)

Use of district equipment on the premises by non-school personnel is limited to the equipment that is an integral part of the facility being used, i.e., the stage lights and piano in the auditorium, the basketball baskets in the gym. No district equipment shall be removed from the premises for use by non-district personnel.

Except as authorized by the chief school administrator or contractual agreement, school equipment may not be used for outside purposes. School equipment may be loaned to staff members as authorized by the chief school administrator, when such use is directly or peripherally related to their instructional responsibilities. Students may also be authorized to use such equipment in connection with their studies or extra-curricular activities. The chief school administrator shall establish procedures to assure the borrower's responsibility to properly maintain and return all equipment.

The board shall require that all users of school facilities comply with policies of this board and the rules and regulations of this district. Each user shall present evidence of the purchase of organizational liability insurance to the limit prescribed by such rules.

Authorization for use of school facilities shall not be considered as endorsement of or approval of the activity, person, group or organization nor the purposes they represent.

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 2C:33-16	Alcoholic beverages; bringing or possession on school
		property by person of legal age; penalty
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:20-34	Use of schoolhouse and grounds for various purposes
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 26:3D-15	
	through -21	Leslative findings and declarations ... (smoking in educational institutions)
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:54-20	Powers of board (county vocational schools)
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:26-12.2(a)4	Policies and procedures for school facility operation
	20 <u>U.S.C.A.</u> 4071 – 4074	– Equal Access Act
	GOALS 2000: Educate America Act (Pro Children Act of 1994), Pub. L. 103-227	
	<u>Resnick v. East Brunswick Twp. Bd. of Ed.</u> , 77 <u>N.J.</u> 88 (1978)	
	<u>Boy Scouts of America v. Dale</u> , 120 S.Ct. 2446 (2000)	
	<u>Good News Club v. Milford Central School</u> , 121 S.Ct. 2093 (2001)	
	Demarest negotiated agreements	

<u>Cross References:</u>	*1230	School-connected organizations
	*3514	Equipment
	*3515	Smoking prohibition
	6161	Equipment, books and materials
	*6145	Extracurricular activities

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Use of School Facilities, Use of School Equipment, District Facilities, Facilities Equipment

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