

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

DEFINITION: "School Facilities" are buildings and grounds, parking lots, playing fields and fixed equipment.

It is the School Committee's desire that the local taxpayers who provide the school facility should be able to obtain maximum use of the facilities, to the extent consistent with the primary pre-k to adult educational function of the school. It is intended that community uses for educational, recreational, social, civic, philanthropic and like purposes be approved by the administration, in accordance with this policy, the implementing regulations, and a fee schedule approved annually by this School Committee.

The Superintendent is responsible to develop administrative regulations which provide for: timely applications; uses which do not interfere with educational or extracurricular programs of the pre-k to adult education public school students; preference to local, not-for-profit organizations; and the acceptance of appropriate responsibility and liability.

These factors are to further guide community use:

- A. A certificate of insurance shall be required as appropriate to the particular use;
- B. No alcoholic beverages may be brought onto school property at any time;
- C. Tobacco use shall not be allowed on school property;
- D. Dogs shall not be allowed on school property, except for service dogs;
- E. School facilities may not be used for any illegal purposes;
- F. Community adults and children are free to use outdoor grounds and facilities outside the school day for recreation whenever not otherwise scheduled. However, formal approval of buildings and grounds use will only be granted to recognized organizations and groups;
- G. Any approval of the use of school facilities is to require the signing of a Facility Use Agreement setting forth the conditions of use;
- H. Application for use is to be made through the Facilities Director, final approval determined by the Superintendent/designee; and
- I. Repeat use may be denied to any group, which has not demonstrated appropriate conduct and care.

Facility use may be granted without rental charge, as follows:

- A. Not-for-profit educational, recreational, cultural and fraternal organizations who have a majority of members who are community residents;
- B. Not-for-profit groups which present programs that are designed to be educationally, recreationally or culturally beneficial to local citizens; and
- C. Municipal-sponsored groups and organizations.

Other groups shall pay rent (in advance) on a multi- increment scale which reflects highest amounts for groups engaging in a profit-making enterprise on school grounds.

The following may be requested of any group:

- A. Reimbursement for incidental expenses (utilities, etc.);
- B. A deposit with the application, refundable after leaving the facility in satisfactory condition;
- C. Reimbursement for property damage and any cleaning and repair costs;
- D. Reimbursement for custodian or other staff costs when necessary to the use of the facility; and
- E. Fees for rental of equipment.

Adopted: July 17, 1967
Revised: February 1986
Revised: August 10, 1998
Revised: June 11, 2001
Revised: June 9, 2003
Reviewed: February 11, 2008
Revised: February 14, 2011
Reviewed: March 10, 2014
Revised: December 8, 2014
Reviewed: June 12, 2017
Reviewed: February 10, 2020
Reviewed: December 11, 2023