

Community Use of School Facilities

School facilities are available to the community for education, civic, cultural, and other non-commercial uses consistent with the public interest, when such use does not interfere with the school program or school-sponsored activities. For example, the facilities may be used for adult education, discussion groups, recreation, entertainment, religious, civic, social purposes, or such other purposes that promote the welfare of the community, including use as registration and polling places for voters. Such facilities may also be used for the operation of a senior citizen center. Use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses. No person, group, or organization has any vested right to use school property. The board of Trustees may grant the use of buildings and grounds for any lawful purpose. Persons on school premises must abide by the District's conduct rules at all times.

Student and school-related organizations shall be granted the use of school facilities at no cost. Other organizations granted the use of the facility shall pay fees and costs. Individuals or groups can make application to the school board in advance to request a waiver or change of rental fees. A rental fee to cover the cost of heat, lights, and general expenses of opening the building will be charged in accordance with a schedule approved by the board. The request must be in writing and explain the rationale for no charge or a change in fees. Rental fees and any fees collected for temporary use of school facilities will be deposited in the operating fund of the District and used for general purposes, except as the board authorized a particular use of the rental fee in a specific instance. The school system will provide, when necessary, adequate custodial service and supervision at the expense of the group using the facility. The Superintendent shall develop procedures to manage community use of school facilities, which shall be reviewed and approved by the Board. Permission to use school facilities will be granted by the superintendent or his/her designee, in keeping with school board regulations, to organizations and residents when such use will not interfere in any way with the regular programs and activities of the schools.

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

The administration shall approve and schedule the various uses of the school facilities. A master calendar will be kept in the office for scheduling dates to avoid conflicts during the school year. Requests for use of the school facilities must be submitted in advance of the event to the Superintendent's office. The district does not rent school facilities on a long term basis.

Proper protection, safety and care of school property shall be primary considerations in the use of school facilities. All facility use shall comply with state and local fire, health, safety and police regulations. All individuals using school facilities shall comply with the policies of this Board.

Legal Reference: I.C. § 33-601      Real and personal property – Acquisition, use or disposal of same.  
I.C. § 33-602      Use of school property or buildings for senior citizen centers  
Lamb’s Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School Dist., 113 S.Ct. 2141

Policy History:

Adopted on: August 10, 2009

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