
COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES/GROUNDS

In order to assure a close relationship between the school and the community, it shall be the policy of the Board to grant and encourage maximum use of school facilities to responsible and properly organized groups for the purpose of education, recreation, and entertainment. Prudent use and management of school facilities outside of the regular operating schedules – provided 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.

The Board will permit the use of school facilities when such permission has been requested in writing and has been approved by the Superintendent for:

- A. Uses and groups directly related to the school and the operation 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;
- F. Other community members as approved by the board.

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 Superintendent deems it advisable, any application may be submitted to the Board of Education for action.

The Superintendent or Board of Education may refuse to grant the use of a school building and shall not be required to give a reason for such refusal.

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.

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.

Users shall be financially liable for damage to the facilities. They also will be required to provide a safe, secure, and properly supervised activity.

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 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.

The Board shall require that all users of school facilities comply with the 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.

The Board of Education accepts no obligations or liability for any injury or loss occurring as a result of use of facilities by an outside organization.

Dated: April 27, 2005

Legal Reference:

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-16 Alcoholic beverages, bringing or possession on school property by person of legal age; penalty
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:20-34 Use of schoolhouse and grounds for various purposes
N.J.S.A. 26:3D-15 Legislative findings and declarations... (smoking in through –21 educational institutions)
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.2(a)4 Policies and procedures for school facility operation
20 U.S.C.A. 4071 – 4074 – Equal Access Act
 GOALS 2000 Educate America Act (Pro Children Act of 1994), Pub. L. 103-277
No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.
Resnick v. East Brunswick Twp. Bd. of Ed. 77N.J. 88 (1978)
Boy Scouts of America v. Dale, 120 S. Ct. 2446 (2000)
Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 121 S. Ct. 2093 (2001)

Possible Cross References:

1230 School-connected organizations
 3514 Equipment
 3515 Smoking prohibition
 6145 Extracurricular activities

