

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The board of trustees will encourage use of the school facilities, consistent with board policy, standards and educational philosophy. 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.

The board adopts the following as its objectives in making school facilities reasonably available to organizations and persons for non-school uses:

- A. To encourage fuller community use of physical facilities constructed and maintained at community expense;
- B. To encourage and support organizations making educational, cultural, artistic, and social offerings available to the community;
- C. To increase community support and awareness of the charter school by making the schools more functionally active in the total community life;
- D. To provide additional revenue from the community to offset support costs;
- E. To encourage a greater variety and scope of activities available to the school community youth.

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 lead person deems it advisable, any application may be submitted to the board of trustees for action.

The lead person or board of trustees 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 the school 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.

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 equipment on the premises by nonschool 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 school equipment shall be removed from the premises for use by nonschool personnel.

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The board shall require that all users of school facilities comply with policies of this board and the rules and regulations of the school. 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.

Political Activity

As used in this section, "school property" shall mean a building or buildings used for school operations.

Candidates for elective public office, holders of elected public office or their agent or representative are prohibited from soliciting campaign contributions on school property. No person shall make contributions, directly or indirectly, to or on behalf of any candidate for elective public office, or the candidate committee or joint candidates committee of any such candidate, while on school property.

This shall not apply to persons or groups reserving or renting school property for a nongovernmental purpose as a meeting location.

Any person in violation of this policy may be reported to the Election Law Enforcement Commission and liable to a penalty of not less than \$5000, for each violation.

Adopted:

Key Words

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

- Legal References:** 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. 19:44A-19.1 Solicitation on state owned property prohibited; certain circumstances
- N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 et seq. New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act
- 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. 103-227
- 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., 77 N.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)

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Possible

- Cross References:** *1230 School-connected organizations
*3514 Equipment
*3515 Smoking prohibition
*6145 Extracurricular activities

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