

POLICY: COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

While the primary purpose of the school facilities is to educate students within this district, the school board recognizes that the facilities are a valuable community resource. Accordingly, the principal may make school facilities available to individuals and community groups without discrimination in accordance with this policy, provided the facilities are preserved for regular school activities.

Individuals and groups may use school facilities for a variety of purposes including the following:

- A. Meetings by parent-teacher organizations and school booster organizations whose purpose is to support the operations of the schools and the school district;
- B. Meetings by employees' professional organizations comprised of school district employees;
- C. Instruction in any branch of education, learning, and the arts;
- D. Social, civic and recreational meetings, and entertainment, provided the events are open to the public;
- E. Civic forums and community centers, provided the events are open to the public;
- F. Recreation, physical training and athletics, including competitive athletic contests for children and adults;
- G. Private academic tutoring or music lessons;¹
- H. Child care programs;
- I. Meetings, entertainment and occasions
- J. Private functions:

The principal may deny an application for use of facilities or terminate an individual or group's use for:

- A. Uses that are likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to school operations;
- B. Uses that interfere with school district maintenance and repair of facilities;
- C. Uses that could damage special equipment in the facilities;
- D. Uses that could reasonably be expected to or actually do give rise to a riot or public disturbance;
- E. Uses where alcoholic beverages or unlawful drugs are sold, distributed, consumed, promoted or possessed; and
- F. Uses prohibited by law.

The principal may place reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on the use of facilities.

The principal shall set a fee schedule and shall administer it in a manner that does not discriminate based on viewpoint. All users shall be required to demonstrate adequate insurance coverage and shall agree to hold the district harmless from any and all liability resulting from their use of the facilities. All users shall be required to make clear in all announcements and publicity that their events and activities are not sponsored by the school district.

The principal may allow individuals and groups to use special equipment, such as audiovisual equipment, provided that the group uses an operator of the equipment who is approved by the superintendent.

Date Warned: 4-1-13

Date Adopted: 5-6-13

Legal references: 16 V.S.A. §563 (3), (5) (Powers of school boards)
Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 7905
Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School Dist., 508 U.S. 384 (1993)
Good News Club v. Milford Central Schools, 533 U.S. 98 (2001)
Travis v. Owego-Apalachin School Dist., 927 F.2d 688 (2d Cir. 1991)
Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education, 331 F.3d 342 (2d Cir. 2003)
Bronx Household of Faith v. Board of Education, ___ F.3d __ (2d Cir. July 2, 2007)
Child Evangelism Fellowship of South Carolina v. Anderson, 47 F.3d 1062 (4th Cir. 2006)
Hickock v. Orange County Comm. College, 472 F. Supp. 2d 469 (S.D.N.Y. 2006)

Cross-reference: *Policy F11 Student Clubs and Activities (Secondary)*
