

7510 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

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:

1. Uses and groups directly related to the school and the operation of the school;
2. Uses and organizations indirectly related to the school;
3. Departments or agencies of the municipal government;
4. Other governmental agencies;
5. Community organizations formed for charitable, civic, or educational purposes; and
6. 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, as well as appropriately provide access into the building for all activities.

The use of school facilities will not be granted for any purpose that is prohibited by law.

Each user shall present evidence of the purchase of organizational liability insurance to the limit as prescribed by district regulations. Each user shall inspect any facility or school grounds to be used prior to such use and shall notify a district representative of any existing safety or dangerous conditions. In the event such conditions exist, the district may cancel or modify the user's access to the school facility until such conditions are addressed. Users shall be financially liable for damage to the facilities and for proper chaperonage as required by the school district administration.

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, certain items of equipment may only be used by a qualified operator approved by the school district administration.

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 school district shall provide a copy of Policy and Regulation 2431.4 – Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries to all youth sports team organizations that operate on school grounds or in school facilities. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.5, the school district shall not be liable for the injury or death of a person due to the action or inaction of persons employed by, or under contract with, a youth sports team organization that uses school facilities or operates on school grounds. The youth sports team organization must provide the school district proof of liability insurance. Such insurance shall include minimum limits of \$1,000,000 for general liability (covering bodily injury and property damage combined, and personal injury, as well as auto liability and proof of workers compensation, if applicable, per person, per occurrence; insuring the youth sports team organization against liability for any bodily injury suffered by a person.



The youth sports team organization must also provide a statement of compliance with the school district's Policy and Regulation 2431.4 - Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries.

When sports organizations/teams using the school buildings or grounds for games, meetings or practices, someone present at all functions MUST hold a Certificate of Completion for Concussion Training or they may not use the facilities until one is obtained. A copy must also accompany this request.

For the purpose of this Policy, a "youth sports team organization" means one or more sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.

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.

N.J.S.A. 18A:20-20; 18A:20-34

Adopted: 28 November 2012
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