

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

This policy defines the following:

- *School property* is defined in NDCC 15.1-19-10(6)(b) as all land within the perimeter of the school site and all school buildings, structures, facilities, and school vehicles, whether owned or leased by a school district, and the site of any school-sponsored event or activity.
- *Community groups* means recognized civic, social, fraternal, and religious organizations.
- *Youth patriotic society* is defined in NDCC 15.1-06-14(1) as a youth group that promotes patriotism, civic education, and civic involvement, listed under title 36, United States Code, subtitle II, part B, as of January 1, 2021.

The Board recognizes that although the primary purpose of school property is to provide students with an appropriate learning environment, school property may be made available during non-instructional time to outside youth or community groups without discrimination and in accordance with the Equal Access Act of 1984, the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society, and this policy, provided the use does not interfere with the educational programs of the District. This policy establishes conditions, restrictions and procedures for the use of school property for community purposes.

The Board of Education subscribes to the notion that the public schools are owned and operated by and for its patrons and that the schools become an integral part of the community in terms of its intellectual and social expression and development. To this end, the Board encourages the public to use school facilities.

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

School-sponsored activities shall have first priority. Activities sponsored by other local political subdivisions shall have second priority. The right to authorize use of school facilities shall be retained by the Board and/or superintendent through the appointed coordinator. Such use will be determined by the district policy and will be only at such times as the facilities required are free from district curricular and extracurricular activities.

General Procedures and Board Regulations

1. Written application for a written permit to use school facilities shall be made with the community school coordinator.
2. The coordinator will be responsible for maintaining an accurate calendar of all uses of school facilities by school and community groups, and a weekly schedule will be sent to the administration, staff, curriculum administrators, school secretaries, and building custodians.
3. The superintendent shall determine and the Board shall approve all universal fees for fee-use of district facilities. A fee schedule shall be established each year.
4. Sponsoring organizations shall provide sufficient competent adult and/or special supervision, and the amount of adequate supervision will be agreed upon at the time the authorization is issued.
5. Alcoholic beverages and tobacco will not be permitted in school facilities.
6. All applicants for use of district facilities shall hold the McKenzie County Public School District No. 1 free and without harm from any loss or damage liability or expense that may arise during or be caused in any way by such or occupancy of district facilities. Also, in the event that property loss or damage to the school is incurred during such use or occupancy of district facilities, the amount of damage shall be decided by the superintendent and approved by the Board and a bill for damages will be presented to the group using or occupying the facilities during the time the loss or damage was sustained.
7. Any and all use of the district facilities shall be totally free from lewd and obscene purposes and content.
8. Any signage promoting the event shall be limited to informational paper signs temporarily adhered to the doors on the building that may be placed up to 30 minutes prior to the event, and removed immediately following the conclusion of the event. All promotional material naming the district facilities as the location of the event shall include a disclaimer stating that the event is not a school sponsored event, and the school district does not necessarily endorse or approve of the activity, group, or organization or the purposes they represent.
9. The district facilities shall only be available for non-school-sponsored activities from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon until 6 p.m. on Sundays.

10. In order to allow for broad use of the facilities, regular use shall be prohibited. This prohibition may be relaxed if no other organization has requested the specific building facilities at that time, and if, in the coordinator's opinion, the number of other groups using the facilities in that time period is such that building staff is not being overburdened by school sponsored and non-school-sponsored activities.
11. The coordinator shall have the authority to deny any group based on building or staff availability.
12. Other than the priorities listed above, the availability of the district facilities shall be determined on a first come-first served basis. The coordinator will determine how far in advance is acceptable for taking reservations.

Policy Adopted: 2/27/1995
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