

7510 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Board of Education believes the school facilities of this district should be made available for community purposes, provided that such use does not interfere with the educational and co-curricular programs of the school district. For the purpose of this policy, “school facilities” also includes school grounds.

The Board will permit the use of school facilities when such permission has been requested in writing and has been approved by the Buildings and Grounds Supervisor or Business Administrator. The Board reserves the right to withdraw permission after it has been granted in the event circumstances change requiring such school facilities or school grounds will be needed for a school district purpose or due to a school closing due to weather or other emergency.

In weighing competing requests for the use of school facilities, the Board will give priority to the following uses, in the descending order given:

Number the following uses in the appropriate order

1. Uses and groups directly related to the schools and the operations of the schools, including pupil and teacher groups;
2. Uses and organizations indirectly related to the schools, including the P.T.A.;
3. Departments and agencies of the municipal government;
4. Local governmental agencies;
5. Community organizations formed for charitable, civic, social, recreational or educational purposes;
6. Community political organizations; and
7. Community church groups;

The use of school facilities (except the Performing Arts Center) will not be granted for the advantage of any commercial or profit-making organization, partisan political activity, or any private social function.



The use of school facilities will not be granted for any purpose that is prohibited by law. The use of the Performing Arts Center will not be granted for the advantage of any commercial or profit-making organization, partisan political activity, private social function, or any purpose that is prohibited by law during the school year (defined as September 1st through date of graduation).

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. All activities must terminate by 10:00 p.m.

Use of school equipment in conjunction with the use of school facilities must be specifically requested in writing and may be granted in accordance with Policy No. 7520. The users of school equipment must accept liability for any damage or loss to such equipment that occurs while it is in their use, regardless of any assignment of negligence. Where rules so specify, certain items of equipment may only be used by a qualified operator approved by the school district administration.

The Board shall approve annually a schedule of fees for the use of school facilities, based upon the following factors:

1. The use of school facilities for activities related to the educational program and district operations shall be without cost to the users, except that the users shall be responsible for any extra custodial fees, and except that users shall be responsible for any police fees.
2. The use of school facilities for any non-profit community use, excepting religious, shall be without cost to the users, except that the users will be responsible for any extra custodial fees, and except that the users will be responsible for any police fees. However, the Board recognizes an obligation to offer recreational facilities to non profit, non religious community youth groups (Harrison/Mantua Townships) within limits of the organization's budgeting constraints.



3. All (other) organizations or persons granted the use of school shall assume the scheduled fee, therefore payable in advance, and the cost of such additional staff services as may be required.

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 if the youth sports team organization provides the school district proof of an insurance policy in the amount of not less than \$50,000 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.

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 Superintendent shall develop regulations for the use of school facilities; such regulations shall be distributed to every user of the facilities and every applicant for the use of school facilities. Permission to use school facilities shall be granted only to persons and organizations that agree to the terms of Policy and Regulation 7510, the requirements as outlined in the use of school facilities application, and in accordance with the terms outlined in the approval granted by the school district.

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

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