

## COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Board of School Directors of R.S.U. #57 recognizes that the primary purpose for use of school facilities is to deliver its education programs. R.S.U. #57 also recognizes that schools have traditionally been community meeting places and centers of local interest. The school buildings and facilities in the communities of R.S.U. #57 present a substantial investment by the District and the towns, and for many purposes are the most suitable facilities available; therefore, the Board of School Directors encourages the use of school facilities for pre-approved school related and community activities. Preference for use shall be given in the order listed below:

1. School-sponsored activities: curricular, co-curricular, and extra-curricular.
2. Meetings and activities of official school-related bodies, including the Board of Directors and its subcommittees, and other non-profit organizations that exist to support District schools or students, including parent-teacher organizations, boosters clubs, and teacher organizations. Such organizations may not sublet to other entities, whether for profit or not.
3. Meetings and activities operated exclusively by government agencies within the District, including town governments and town recreation departments. This category does not include activities operated by profit-making businesses under the nominal sponsorship of a municipal agency.
4. Employees of RSU #57 who wish to provide services to RSU #57 students in the employee's curriculum area of expertise or certification areas. The service must be in direct line with the district's curriculum. The employee may bring in additional assistance provided the employee is present in the building for the duration of the activity. The employee must agree to volunteer their time and cannot receive any financial gain from the activity, organization, or individual. The service must be provided during normal operation hours. The employee will be held responsible for insuring that the used space will be left in the same condition in which it was found. A parental waiver will be required for each student involved.
5. Meetings and activities conducted specifically for youth that are open to RSU #57 students and that are run by responsible not-for-profit organizations (as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service) that provide services, instruction and/or activities for school aged youth, including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire, 4H, the Good New Club and similar organizations. The Superintendent or Director of Finance and Operations shall have final authority as to whether an organization satisfies these criteria.
6. Meetings and activities of responsible, not-for-profit (as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service) civic and social organizations or agencies, including social service agencies, self-help groups, religious organizations, and arts organizations.

7. Meetings and activities of all other not for profit groups wishing to use the facilities.
8. Meetings and activities of all for-profit entities wishing to use the facilities.

Activities and organizations that fit within the above preference categories will not be denied access based on race, religion, gender, disability, nation or origin, or viewpoint. The District shall refuse access to any activity or organization that will damage the reputation of the schools, promotes behaviors that are harmful to children or that in any way interferes with the operation of the schools in accordance with the District's Vision Statement, Guiding Principles and policies.

Activities in categories 1-5 shall be exempt from rental fees. All other activities shall be charged rental fees in accordance with the prescribed fee schedule. In addition, activities in categories 3-8 will be expected to cover any additional fees that may be incurred.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing administrative regulations, which provide for timely applications, uses which do not interfere with educational or extracurricular programs of the public school students, preference to local organizations and the acceptance of appropriate responsibility and liability. These factors are to further guide community use but are not all inclusive:

1. A certificate of insurance shall be required as appropriate to the particular use;
2. No alcoholic beverages or drugs may be brought on school property at any time;
3. Tobacco use shall not be allowed on school property at any time;
4. School facilities may not be used for any illegal purposes;
5. Community adults and children are free to use outdoor grounds and facilities for non-organized recreational purposes whenever they are not otherwise scheduled so long as it is used in accordance with its normal proper use outside of regular school day hours. The use of school equipment without prior approval is prohibited. However, formal approval to buildings and grounds use will only be granted to recognized organizations and groups;
6. Any approval of the use of school facilities requires the signing of Facility Use Agreement setting forth the condition of use;
7. Application for use is to be made through the designated software program, with final approval determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee; and
8. Repeat use may be denied to any group which has not demonstrated appropriate conduct and care.

**Approved:** June 14, 2006

**Revised:** May 27, 2009; March 23, 2011; Dec. 10, 2012; March 13, 2013;  
Feb. 10, 2016; June 5, 2018

**Reviewed:** December 7, 2021