

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

While the district's school buildings and grounds are maintained primarily for the purpose of educating students with the district, the Board of Education recognizes that its buildings and grounds are a valuable community resource and believes that this resource should be available to the community for specific uses that will not interfere with educational activities.

The Board of Education grants the privilege of using the public school facilities, hereinafter defined as buildings, swimming pool, athletic fields, and playing fields to those organizations or groups that will comply with the law and will benefit the general welfare of the community educationally and recreationally, as determined by the Administration. It is the policy of the Board of Education that such organizations shall pay the added expense, such as costs of maintenance and custodial service, necessary to make possible the use of the facilities. (See Exhibit E.2)

1. Restricted Activities

- a. School facilities cannot be used by an individual, group or organization for any activity that is intended to overthrow the government by force, violence or other unlawful means.
- b. Games of chance, lotteries, or other activities classified as gambling cannot be conducted on school premises.
- c. Alcoholic beverages, tobacco, illegal drugs or other products considered hazards to health can not be sold, or consumed on school premises. No one shall possess a weapon on school premises.
- d. No enterprise, function or activity that promotes any commercial product or results in private profit or commercial gain for any business enterprise can be conducted on school property. This is not meant to preclude a school group paying or sponsoring a profit-making entity for services in conjunction with school group activities such as student pictures, high school rings and PTA fund raising activities.
- e. Activities in conflict with Town ordinances or State law are not permitted.
- f. Political meetings are not permitted unless authorized by a majority of the qualified voters at an Annual Election and Budget Vote, held as provided by law.
- g. The use of kitchen facilities is prohibited unless specific permission is secured from the Principal and Director of Food Service. The using group must agree to leave the facilities in a clean condition appropriate for the preparation of student lunches the next day, to return all utensils to their proper place and to not allow abuse of cafeteria equipment. It may be required that outside groups hire the services of a district food service worker when using kitchen facilities.
- h. Religious instruction is prohibited.

- i. Use of motorized vehicles, model airplanes, rockets, snowmobiles and skateboards are prohibited (when not part of the approved school curriculum).
- j. Golf Practice: Golf practice on school grounds is prohibited except when it is part of the regular school program.
- k. Animals: Owners are prohibited from allowing their animals on sidewalks, playgrounds, athletic fields and within the buildings.

2. Priority of Use

Priority of use will generally be Class I, II, III, and IV as designated below and as is reasonably determined by the Principal to provide availability to as many as possible. In the event of any conflict with school activities, the school function will take precedence.

CLASS I Activities of:

- A. 1. Students of the School District (e.g. student clubs and teams).
2. School District Staff Organizations (NCTA, AANC and CSEA).
- B. Organizations directly affiliated with the schools. (e.g. P.T.A, Booster Clubs, Friends of Music and New York State School Music Association).
- C. Tax supported units located within the district. (e.g. fire district, water district, Town of Colonie)

Charges: No charges unless extra costs are incurred. Extra costs are those costs which would not have been incurred in the normal operation of the buildings or grounds. Such would arise through the use of extra labor, utilities, etc. (See Exhibit E.2)

CLASS II Activities of:

- A. Educational, recreational and cultural activities which parallel those of the school and which are sponsored by local volunteer community groups, defined as one who has a majority of its membership within the boundaries of the district, has a tax-free status, and is supported by voluntary contributions of the people. (e.g. Latham Lassies, Latham Circle Soccer, North Colonie Youth Baseball, Colonie Youth Center's Recreational Programs, Boy and Girl Scouts, Adirondack Blue Fins).

B. State Agencies.

Charges: No charges (except for use of fields) unless extra costs are incurred. Extra costs are those costs which would not have been incurred in the normal operation of the buildings or grounds. Such would arise through the use of extra labor, utilities, etc. (See Exhibit E.2)

CLASS III Activities of local community groups, defined as a non-profit, tax exempt organization whose headquarters or the majority of its membership is located within the boundaries of the district. (e.g. Colonie Youth Center, other than recreational programs).

Charges: Rental charges and extra labor and utility charges incurred. (See Exhibit E.2)

CLASS IV Activities of non-profit, tax exempt organizations whose headquarters or the majority of its membership are not located within the boundaries of the district. (e.g. AAU basketball)

Charges: Rental charges and extra labor and utility charges incurred. (See Exhibit E.2)

Note: Prior policy, Use of School Facilities, 1330 (a)-(d), 1332, 1333-R

Policy Adopted: September 14, 1970

Amended: December 15, 1986

Amended: January 22, 1979

Adopted: August 14, 1961

Amended: May 11, 1964

Amended: September 27, 1994

Amended: February 24, 1997

Amended: October 25, 2004

Amended: April 24, 2006

Amended: May 22, 2006

Amended: July 5, 2006

Amended: January 28, 2008

