

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The district facilities belong to the community, which paid for them for the primary purpose of offering a full educational program for its children. Prudent use and management of school facilities outside of the regular operating schedules--providing 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 chief school administrator for:

- A. Uses and groups directly related to the school and the operations of the school;
- B. Uses and organizations indirectly related to the school;
- C. Departments or agencies of the municipal government;
- D. Other governmental agencies;
- E. Community organizations formed for charitable, civic or educational purposes.

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 chief school administrator deems it advisable, any application may be submitted to the board of education for action.

The chief school administrator or board of education may refuse to grant the use of a school building whenever in their judgment there is good reason why permission should be refused.

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.

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, no item of equipment may be used except by a qualified operator.

Use of district equipment on the premises by nonschool 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 nondistrict personnel.

The board shall require that all users of school facilities comply with 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.

School Grounds Curfew

In order to ensure the safety of individuals and of school property, the Oxford Township Board of Education is permanently establishing a dusk-to-dawn curfew period for the school building and adjacent property. "Dusk" is defined as one-half hour after sunset and "dawn" shall be defined as on-half hour before sunrise. This curfew forbids any individual from trespassing on school grounds during evening hours when such individuals are not part of a supervised activity on school premises.

Violators and/or their parents/guardians will be prosecuted for unlawful trespassing if they are in violation of this policy.

Facility Rental Fee

As of September 1, 2011, the chief school administrator has recommended the institution of a fee for groups other than The OCS PTA, the Oxford Youth Association, the Girl Scout and Boy Scouts. These groups will be exempt for the extra fee, unless they require the use of the facility outside the regular hours of the school facility, *i.e.* Saturday or Sunday. All other groups will be required to pay a usage fee of \$25.00 per day for use of any part of the OCS facility, Monday – Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, pending approval from the Oxford Township Board of Education, a group requesting to use the facility will be charged \$150.00 for the first two hours of time and a \$50.00 an hour for each hour thereafter. The PTA, OYA and scouting organizations will be charged \$150.00 for the use of the facility, plus the cost of a custodian.

Date:

First Adoption: September 16, 1998

Review Date: July 17, 2008

Revision and Adoption: August 28, 2008

Review Date: December 20, 2011/ September 1, 2011

Revision and Adoption: October 27, 2011

Legal References:

Mandated:

N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.2(a)4 requires policy prohibiting smoking in district buildings.

Other Reasons:

N.J.S.A. 26:3D-58 prohibits smoking in any area of any building of, or on the grounds of, any public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, regardless of whether the area is an indoor public place or is outdoors.

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that districts that receive federal funds and allow youth groups not affiliated with the schools to use their facilities may not discriminate against the Boy Scouts or other legally defined patriotic societies on the basis of membership or leadership criteria. The board is not required to sponsor Boy Scout troops or provide financial support to them.

N.J.S.A. 2C:33-16

Alcoholic beverages; bringing or possession on school property by person of legal age; penalty

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1

General mandatory powers and duties

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

Use of schoolhouse and grounds for various purposes

N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 et seq.

New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act

N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.2(a)4 Policies and procedures for school facility operation

20 U.S.C.A. 4071 – 4074 – Equal Access Act

GOALS 2000: Educate America Act (Pro Children Act of 1994), Pub. L. 103-227

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. 107-110, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

Resnick v. East Brunswick Twp. Bd. of Ed., 77 N.J. 88 (1978)

Boy Scouts of America v. Dale, 120 S.Ct. 2446 (2000)

Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 121 S.Ct. 2093 (2001)

Possible

Cross References: 1230 School-connected organizations
3514 Equipment
3515 Smoking prohibition
6145 Extracurricular activities

Key Words

Use of School Facilities, Use of School Equipment, District Facilities, Facilities Equipment