

9700.01 - ACCESS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Since the schools are funded by the people of the District for the public good, the Board believes that school facilities should be made available to community groups for appropriate use so long as such use does not interfere with the primary function of the school, the education of the District's children. By the adoption of this policy, the Board does not intend to create any sort of designated open public forum, but rather to allow only those uses which it deems to be consistent with the use of the facilities for public school purposes.

Therefore, the Superintendent may grant access to community groups to use school facilities for meetings during times when such facilities are not being used for school purposes. Such access will be only for temporary, short-term use. Permission shall not be granted unless and until the community group agrees in writing to each of the following:

A.

to provide to the Superintendent information regarding the group and its planning activities on school property sufficient for the Superintendent to apply the provisions of this policy;

B.

to present to the Superintendent written proof that the group has adequate insurance to protect against the risk of liability arising from the use requested;

C.

to hold the District, the Board, and its agents and employees harmless from all liability arising from the group's use of the property;

D.

not to publish or otherwise disseminate to the public any direct or indirect suggestion that the activities conducted by the group on school premises are sanctioned, sponsored, or endorsed by the District, the Board of Education, or the Superintendent.

E.

to the extent practicable, not to permit any items identifiable to the community group, which the Superintendent may permit the group to temporarily store items on school premises, to be readily visible to students attending school during regular school hours;

F.

to assume any property tax liability which may be imposed upon the District's real property as a result of the group's use;

G.

to permit the attendance at the group's activities on school premises any representative of the District which the Superintendent may, at his/her discretion, assign to monitor those activities;

H.

to comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local civil and criminal laws and administrative requirements relating to the group's use of school facilities;

I.

to promptly pay the cost as determined by the Superintendent or to promptly make all repairs to District property required as the result of the group's use, excepting ordinary wear and tear;

J.
to promptly pay the District whatever fee has been set by the Board;

K.
not to sell, deliver, or use alcoholic beverages on school premises;

L.
not to permit the use of tobacco products on school premises;

M.
not to permit the sale, delivery, possession, or use of such drugs, weapons, or other items the sale, delivery, possession, or use of which is prohibited by law;

N.
not to permit animals on school premises, except those specifically trained for assisting handicapped persons;

O.
to ensure that all minors participating in group activities are supervised by adults.

The Superintendent may revoke previously granted access if it appears that the group has materially violated any of the promises it made prior to access being granted. The Superintendent may deny access if s/he reasonably believes that a group cannot or will not fulfill the promises required by this policy. The Superintendent may deny access if the use requested is for a time, duration, number of persons, physical activity, or portion of school facilities which the Superintendent does not wish to make available to community groups generally. The Board of Education reserves the right to assign, adjust, or cancel the use of school facilities at any time.

The Superintendent shall in no event grant, deny, or revoke access based upon the viewpoint of the expression of the community group. However, no access shall be granted to community groups to engage in the following types of activities on school premises which the Board deems to be inconsistent with the use of the premises for public school purposes:

A.
partisan political

B.
profit-making

For purposes of this Policy, the term "community group" refers to an adult-led group of ten (10) or more persons organized for social, educational, civic, cultural, welfare, recreational, philosophical, or community service purposes whose membership or the participants at whose meetings and activities are to a significant degree residents of the District. The membership or participation of children or District students or the lack of such membership or participation has no bearing on whether a group shall be considered a "community group" under this policy. Parent-teacher organizations, school foundations, alumni organizations, booster clubs, or other groups not legally associated with the Board of Education, but which are organized and operating exclusively for the purpose of assisting the Board, administration, staff, students, and parents of the District service the educational needs of the District's

student body shall not be considered "community groups" under this policy and may be granted priority access to District facilities under such conditions as the Board determines.

Recognized community groups may use school facilities free of charge when such use does not require the school district to incur costs for staff overtime. Otherwise, a fee shall be charged for the use of school facilities pursuant to schedules which shall be approved annually by the School Board.

Community recreation organizations that charge fees for participation in their programs will also be expected pay appropriate costs for using school facilities.