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The District has established a limited open forum for nonschool use of District facilities in accordance with this policy.

The District shall provide equal access to youth groups designated in federal law, including the Boy Scouts, as it provides to other nonschool users of District facilities. [See Patriotic Societies in GKD(LEGAL)]

### Scope of Use

The District shall permit nonschool use of designated District facilities for educational, recreational, civic, or social activities when these activities do not conflict with school use or with this policy.

Approval shall not be granted for any purpose that would damage District property or to any group that has damaged District property.

*Note:* See the following policies for other information regarding facilities use:

- Use by employee professional organizations: DGA
- Use of facilities for school-sponsored and school-related activities: FM
- Use by noncurriculum-related student groups: FNAB
- Use by District-affiliated school-support organizations: GE

# Nonprofit Fundraising

The District shall permit nonprofit organizations to conduct fund-raising events on District property when these activities do not conflict with school use or with this policy.

#### **For-Profit Use**

The District shall permit individuals and for-profit organizations to use its facilities for financial gain when these activities do not conflict with school use or with this policy.

### Campaign-Related Use

Except to the extent that a District facility is used as an official polling place, District facilities shall not be available for use by individuals or groups for political advertising, campaign communications, or electioneering, as those terms are used in state law.

#### Schedulina

Requests for nonschool use of District facilities shall be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

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Academic and extracurricular activities sponsored by the District shall always have priority when any use is scheduled. [See FM] The Superintendent or his designee shall have authority to cancel a scheduled nonschool use if an unexpected conflict arises with a District activity.

### Approval of Use

The Superintendent or his designee is authorized to approve a nonschool use of facilities on a school campus. The Superintendent or his designee is authorized to approve nonschool use of all other District facilities.

### **Exceptions**

No approval shall be required for nonschool-related recreational use of the District's unlocked, outdoor recreational facilities, such as the track, playgrounds, and the like, when the facilities are not in use by the District or for a scheduled nonschool purpose.

### School Facilities Available for Community Use

The Board recognizes the desirability and encourages the use of school facilities by outside organizations for educational, cultural, or civic purposes, provided that:

- 1. Such usage does not interfere with the scheduled educational program of the particular facility.
- A responsible school employee, assigned to the function by the principal/building administrator, can be made available to prepare the required area, represent the interests of the District, clean up all areas affected after use, and secure the facility.
- 3. The user completes the necessary forms supplied by the principal/administrator in charge and pays all the estimated applicable charges prior to use.

#### **Priorities**

Priorities for scheduling the use of school facilities shall be as follows:

- 1. The regularly scheduled educational program, including instructional activities; meetings, practices, and performances of school-sponsored groups; and staff meetings related to official school business.
- Meetings and other activities of school support groups organized for the sole purpose of supporting the schools or school-sponsored activities [see GE].
- Meetings and other activities of groups made up primarily of school-aged children.
- 4. Meetings of employee organizations [see DGA].

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5. Meetings and activities of other groups on a first-come, firstserved basis.

# District Employee Requirement

In no case shall District facility keys be issued or lent to an individual or organization for use of a school facility, nor shall a District facility be used without a responsible school employee present.

#### User Identification

School facilities may be used without charge provided the using organization or activity is:

- 1. Officially District-sponsored;
- An approved function of a publicly supported educational institution; or
- 3. Of a civic, cultural, or educational nature, and open without charge to the general public or to all District students of that facility.

Other educational, religious, civic, and cultural organizations, when spensored by an Ector County organization, may rent certain school facilities for purposes of entertainment, recreation, or self or community improvement under the terms and conditions previously defined within this Board policy. Such rental fees shall be established and kept current by the Superintendent so as to recover only the actual cost to the District.

Established local religious organizations may rent certain facilities for church services following a catastrophe or emergency or during planning, construction, or renovation of their regular place of worship. Such rental shall be limited to a maximum period of 12 months unless extension is requested by the user and is granted by the Board.

### **Use Limitations**

Use of any school facility shall not be allowed by any organization which advances any doctrine or theory subversive to the Constitution or laws of the state of Texas or of the United States; for promotion of private, profit making enterprises; or for programs that may be detrimental or destructive to buildings, furniture, equipment, or grounds.

Use of a school facility shall not be allowed for any partisan political rally, meeting, or purpose. Upon the approval of the Superintendent, the use of a school facility shall not be denied solely because a federal, state, or local public office holder shall speak at, or be a part of, the program or activity to be conducted, provided no campaigning for any public office is conducted and no collection or solicitation, direct or indirect, of financial contributions or other endorsement or support for such office holder is made. Meetings or

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activities held for the purpose of educating the public and advocating either the passage or defeat of an upcoming District bond election shall not be prohibited by this paragraph, provided no financial collections or solicitations are made, directly or indirectly.

Prior to use, all users shall sign an appropriate contract in forms promulgated by the Superintendent. Such contract form(s) shall be consistent with these Board policies, but may contain provisions regarding insurance or other matters deemed advisable by the Superintendent.

Emergencyies or Disasters Use

In case of emergencies or disasters, the Superintendent may authorize the use of District school facilities by civil defense, health, or emergency service authorities officials in the case of emergencies or disasters.

**Repeated Use** 

The District shall permit repeated use by any group or organization for nonschool purposes for no longer than 24 months.

**Use Agreement** 

Any organization or individual approved for a nonschool use of District facilities shall be required to complete a written agreement indicating receipt and understanding of this policy and any applicable administrative regulations, and acknowledging that the District is not liable for any personal injury or damages to personal property related to the nonschool use.

**Fees for Use** 

Nonschool users shall be charged a fee for the use of designated District facilities.

The chief financial officer shall establish and publish a schedule of fees based on the cost of the physical operation of the facilities, as well as any applicable personnel costs for supervision, custodial services, food services, security, and technology services.

**Exceptions** 

Fees shall not be charged when school buildings are used:

- 1. For public meetings sponsored by state or local governmental agencies; or
- 2. By District employee professional organizations [see DGA].

**Required Conduct** 

Persons or groups Organizations using school facilities shall:

- 1. Conduct their business in an orderly manner.
- 2. Abide by all laws and policies, including but not limited to those prohibiting the use, sale, or possession of alcoholic

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beverages, illegal drugs, and firearms and the use of tobacco products **or e-cigarettes** on school property. [See DGA].

 Make no alteration, temporary or permanent, to school property without prior written consent from the Superintendent.

All groups using District facilities shall be responsible for the cost of repairing any damages incurred during use and shall be required to indemnify the District for the cost of any such repairs.

### Release of Liability

Organizations or individuals using school facilities shall release the District from liability for personal injury and/or damages to personal property. All groups using school facilities shall be responsible for the cost of damages incurred during their use.

### Distribution of Nonschool Literature

Written or printed materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, films, tapes, or other visual or auditory materials over which the District does not exercise control shall not be sold, circulated, or distributed by persons or groups not associated with the school or a school support group on any school premises in the District without permission in accordance with this policy.

The District's classrooms during the school day are provided for the limited purpose of delivering instruction to students in the courses and subjects in which they are enrolled. Hallways in school buildings are provided for the limited purpose of facilitating the movement of students between classes and allowing access to assigned lockers. Classrooms and hallways shall not be used for the distribution of any materials over which the school does not exercise control.

Each school campus shall designate an area where materials that have been approved for distribution, as provided below, may be made available or distributed to students or others in accordance with the time, place, and manner restrictions developed and approved by the campus principal. The Superintendent shall designate appropriate areas and determine appropriate time, place, and manner restrictions regarding distribution of nonschool materials at District buildings other than school campuses.

#### **Prior Review**

All written material over which the school does not exercise control and that is intended for distribution on District property shall be submitted for prior review according to the following procedures:

1. Materials shall be submitted to the Superintendent or designee for review.

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- To be considered for distribution, materials shall include the name of the organization or individual sponsoring the distribution.
- Using the standards below at LIMITATIONS ON CONTENT the Superintendent or designee shall approve or reject submitted material within two school days of the time the material is received.
- 4. The requestor may appeal the decision of the Superintendent or designee to the Board in accordance with GF(LO-CAL), beginning at the appropriate Level.

Appropriate law enforcement officials may be called when a person refuses to follow the procedures for submitting materials and fails to leave the premises when asked. [See GKA]

Limitations on Content

Nonschool materials shall not be distributed if:

- 1. The materials are obscene, vulgar, or otherwise inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience.
- 2. The materials endorse actions endangering the health or safety of students.
- The distribution of such materials would violate the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person.
- 4. The materials contain defamatory statements about public figures or others.
- 5. The materials criticize Board members or school officials or advocate violation of school rules and fall within the standard described at LIMITATIONS ON EXPRESSION at FNAA(LEGAL).
- 6. The materials advocate imminent lawless or disruptive action and are likely to incite or produce such action.
- 7. The materials include hate literature that scurrilously attacks ethnic, religious, or racial groups, and similar publications aimed at creating hostility and violence if they fall within the standard described at LIMITATIONS ON EXPRESSION at FNAA(LEGAL).

[See CPAB regarding use of the District's internal mail system and FNAA regarding distribution of nonschool literature by students]

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ADOPTED: