

SOMERVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Somerville, New Jersey

FILE CODE: 1330

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| <u> </u> | Monitored |
| <u> X </u> | Mandated |
| <u> X </u> | Other Reasons |

Policy

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Somerville School 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 superintendent 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 superintendent deems it advisable, any application may be submitted to the board of education for action. The board will permit the use of school facilities when such permission has been requested in writing and has been approved by the superintendent or his/her designee for:

- Group 1: Somerville School District sponsored organizations including school related curricular and co-curricular activities that are supervised by school district staff; nonprofit parent organizations and clubs recognized by the Somerville Board of Education.
- Group 2: Departments or agencies of the Somerville/Branchburg Municipalities, Somerset County, or State Government; Branchburg School District sponsored activities and groups; other County/Athletic Conference Schools.
- Group 3: All other non-profit, civic, and community organizations and members not identified in groups 1 and 2; fee based athletic clubs/arts camp type activities that help to enhance Somerville High School's extracurricular programs.
- Group 4: All organizations and individuals not included in groups 1, 2 and 3 which encompasses all for profit organizations and programs.

The superintendent 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. For purposes of this policy,

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (continued)

"smoking" means inhaling the burning or vapor of a lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, electronic smoking device or any other matter or substance which contains tobacco. Chewing tobacco is also specifically prohibited by this policy. 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.

Animals

Pets are not permitted on school grounds during or after school operational hours without the permission of the building principal. Off-leash dogs seen wandering around school grounds without an owner shall be reported to animal control.

Playgrounds

The board shall permit the playgrounds to be used as a recreational area by the community when school is not in session. The board reserves the right to limit the use of playground equipment and the hours when the playground may be used when it is in the interest of the safety of district residents and the integrity of the school facility.

The rules of conduct, which shall govern all persons who use the schools' facilities, shall be published and available to the community. Students and employees of the district who violate these rules will be subject to discipline. Any person who violates board policy may be requested to leave the school premises.

Vehicles and Motorized Toys

Because of the potential for hazard, no vehicles or toys that are powered by fuel or battery shall be brought onto the school grounds for any purpose that is primarily recreational, without the express permission of the principal. Such vehicles and toys include, but are not limited to, mini-bikes, mopeds, snowmobiles, motorized scooters, motorized model airplanes or other flying or driving toys, and rockets.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (continued)

Any individual driving a car or motorcycle on school grounds shall operate their vehicle according to all traffic laws and drive or park in designated areas only. Vehicle operators violating board policy shall be reported to local law enforcement.

Joint Use of Facilities

Joint expenditure of district funds and municipal or county funds may be utilized to provide facilities that benefit the entire community, children and adults alike. The board may join with the local municipal governing body in acquiring, improving, equipping, operating, or maintain jointly-used facilities.

Political Activity

As used in this section, "school property" shall mean a building or buildings used for school operations.

Candidates for elective public office, holders of elected public office or their agent or representative are prohibited from soliciting campaign contributions on school property. No person shall make contributions, directly or indirectly, to or on behalf of any candidate for elective public office, or the candidate committee or joint candidates committee of any such candidate, while on school property.

This shall not apply to persons or groups reserving or renting school property for a nongovernmental purpose as a meeting location.

Any person in violation of this policy may be reported to the Election Law Enforcement Commission and liable to a penalty of not less than \$5000, for each violation.

Adopted: August 20, 1996
 Revised: January 24, 2006, September 28, 2010, July 17, 2012, March 22, 2016
 NJSBA Review/Update: February 2017
 Readopted:

Key Words

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

Legal References: 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. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)
N.J.S.A. 19:44A-19.1 Solicitation on state owned property prohibited; certain circumstances
N.J.S.A. 26:3D-55 et seq. New Jersey Smoke-Free Air Act
N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.2(a)4 Policies and procedures for school facility operation
 20 U.S.C.A. 4071 et. seq. Equal Access Act
 GOALS 2000: Educate America Act (Pro Children Act of 1994), Pub. L. 103-227
Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114-95, 20 U.S.C.A. 6301 et seq.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES (continued)

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
*5131.1 Harassment, intimidation and bullying
*6145 Extracurricular activities

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.