USE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

The Commerce Board of Education believes that the first priority in the use of its school property is the education of children in the district. However, local citizens are encouraged to use the property for other reasonable general public use including religious, political, literary, community, cultural, scientific, mechanical, agricultural, or parental involvement purposes. The school district shall allow use of school buildings and facilities to youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society in accordance with the rules and requirements set forth in the school district's regulation on use of school facilities.

The school district will make school property available for public recreation before or after normal school hours, on weekends, or during school vacations. In making the determination as to whether property is available, the superintendent shall review current recommended local, state and federal health and safety guidelines to determine whether the district space that is requested will be able to be utilized. If a group is allowed to use school property, it will be the responsibility of the person who fills out the application for use to ensure that all appropriate steps are taken with regard to health and safety guidelines, including with regard to sanitation and cleaning. Specific property that will be open includes: cafeterias, athletic fields, and gymnasiums. The school district will not provide supervision during these hours and any use should be carefully monitored by parents or legal guardians.

The school district will provide emergency shelter for patrons during weather emergencies. Animals will not be permitted in the school district's tornado shelters.

If the school renders emergency care, aid, shelter, or other assistance during a national disaster or catastrophic event, the school district shall not be liable for damages resulting from the rendering of the emergency care, aid, shelter or other assistance unless the damage was caused by the gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct of the individual or entity rendering the emergency care, aid, shelter or assistance.

The board shall exercise its authority to fix and collect rentals, rates, and charges for the occupancy or use of school property in such amounts and in such manner as may be determined.

The superintendent is directed to establish rules and regulations in support of this policy. The rules and regulations will require evidence of appropriate liability insurance coverage. The school district will not permit the use of school property or equipment by any person or organization that does not furnish evidence of sufficient insurance coverage.

If the district has provided classroom space or other school facilities for a federally sponsored Head Start program and is planning to make a material change in the arrangement, the superintendent will give notice to the director of the Head Start program at least seven (7) days prior to a school board hearing on the matter.

REFERENCE: **20 USC §7905**
70 O.S. §§5-129.3 and 5-130
11 O.S. §33-103

NOTE: **Senate Concurrent Resolution 60 of 1994 recommends that school districts make school transportation equipment available to community-based organizations in transporting elderly persons.**