

Use of School Facilities

The Board subscribes to the belief that public schools are owned and operated by and for its patrons. Every possible opportunity will be provided for the use of school facilities by citizens of the Nooksack Valley School District, provided that the purpose of the use is in harmony with the public interest and welfare, is not disruptive to the education process, and follows the laws of the State of Washington and the rules and regulations set forth by the Board. The public is encouraged to use school facilities but shall be expected to reimburse the district for such use to insure that funds intended for education are not used for other purposes.

District-sponsored activities, including curricular and co-curricular functions, retain priority in use of the facilities. Authorization for use of school facilities shall not be considered an endorsement of or approval of the activity group or organization nor for the purpose it represents.

The superintendent is authorized to establish procedures for use of school facilities, including rental rates, supervisory requirements, restrictions, security, etc. For rental rate purposes, organizations seeking the use of school facilities have been divided into three categories:

1. School Related or Community Groups (Group A)
Include those organizations whose main purpose is to promote the welfare of boys and girls or to provide members of the community access to government programs or opportunities for civic participation. Examples are Scouts, Campfire, PTA, 4-H, city or county sponsored recreation groups, garden clubs, polling places, presidential political caucuses and governmental groups. There is no base rental fee for these groups. However, if it is necessary for the district to provide additional staff such as custodians, a fee will be assessed to reimburse the district for the custodial hours.

2. Non-profit Groups (Group B)
Include those organizations which might wish to use school facilities for lectures, non-community recreation activities, promotional activities, political rallies, entertainment, college courses, or other activities for which public halls or commercial facilities are typically rented. Non-profit groups of the kind that in most communities have their own facilities (churches, lodges, veterans groups, granges, etc.) who wish to use district facilities on a temporary basis may do so under this rental rate.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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2. Non-profit Groups (cont'd.)

The district shall charge a base rate rental fee. Such charges may be waived when a service club or other non-profit group is raising funds for charitable purposes. If necessary, custodial overtime hours will be charged in addition to the base rate regardless of whether funds are being raised for charitable purposes. Similar treatment may be granted to public universities and colleges when offering college courses within the community or when any university/college is offering a course for staff.

3. Commercial Enterprises (Group C)

Include profit-making organizations and business-related enterprises. While the district would prefer organizations use commercial or private facilities, facilities may be rented for non-regular use. The facility may be rented at the established district fee schedule in addition to custodial overtime hours if necessary.

Legal References:

AGO 1973 No. 26 Initiative No. 276 -

School districts--Use of school facilities for presentation of programs--Legislature--Elections

RCW 28A.335.150 - Permitting use and rental of playgrounds, athletic fields, or athletic facilities

RCW 28A.320.510 - Night schools, summer schools, meetings, use of facilities for

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