

**Policy Statement #8120 (Community) Regarding Use of School Facilities**

I. Purpose

- A. To encourage the use of public school facilities for community purposes
- B. To put a process in place for facility use

II. Definitions

- A. Approved day care program – A nonprofit licensed or government- sponsored child care program for which a fee is charged and which serves school age children on a regularly scheduled basis as a supplement to the parent’s primary care of the child
- B. Community purposes - The presentation and discussion of public questions; public speaking; lectures; or other civic, educational, social, or recreational purposes; or church affiliated civic purposes
- C. Emergency, crisis or disaster – An occasion or instance which, in the determination of the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Maryland, the Calvert Board of County Commissioners, or a government agency or official with designated authority, poses a threat to lives, property, public health or public safety
- D. Nonprofit organization – An organization, institution, association, society, club, and/or corporation that has been designated as nonprofit by the Internal Revenue Service
- E. Person – includes an individual, receiver, trustee, guardian, executor, administrator, fiduciary, or representative of any kind and any partnership, firm, association, public or private corporation, or other entity; and the State, any county, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of this State, and any of their agencies or units

III. Policy Statement

- A. The public school facilities in Calvert County shall be devoted primarily to curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs. However, the use of public school facilities for community purposes shall be encouraged provided they are open to the public and when such use will not interfere with regular school sessions or bona fide school activities.
- B. The Superintendent may refuse the use of any school facility if it appears that the use is likely to cause a disruption, disrupt the peace, or create a clear and present danger.
- C. During times of emergencies, crises or disasters, use of school facilities by governmental and/or relief agencies shall take precedence and shall proceed in alignment with Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) Policy 8110 – Use of Schools as Emergency Shelters.
- D. Non-emergency use of school facilities shall be made available in accordance with the following order of priority:

- 1. 1st Priority: Any curricular, co-curricular or extracurricular program of CCPS

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2. 2nd Priority: Any group which is directly affiliated with CCPS
  3. 3rd Priority: Calvert County Parks and Recreation and its affiliated or co-sponsored organizations
  4. 4th Priority: Any governmental agency (other than Parks and Recreation), education institution, or approved day care program
  5. 5th Priority: Nonprofit organizations
  6. 6th Priority: Uses by other groups as approved by the Board of Education
- E. In order to cover or offset any associated costs, a usage fee in accordance with Procedure 8210.1 may be charged to any group, agency, or organization using a CCPS facility. The person who applies for the use of the facility will be held responsible for any and all damage to the property, other than normal wear and tear.
- IV. Delegation of Authority
- A. The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy in accordance with all local policies and local, state and federal laws and regulations and to communicate this policy and accompanying procedures to all relevant parties.
- V. Exceptions
- A. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the Board, by majority vote, may temporarily suspend all or part of this policy. Suspension of all or part of this policy, however, in no way relieves the Board of its obligation to comply with the pertinent local, state and federal laws and regulations or the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.
- VI. Review
- A. This policy will be reviewed at the end of three years, or sooner, if approved by a majority vote of the Board of Education in public session.
- VII. Effective Date
- A. This policy is effective April 8, 2021.

#### Citations

State Law: §§ 7-108, 7-109, and 7-110 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

State Reg.:

Federal Law: 26 U.S.C. Section 501

Adm. Reg.:

Neg. Agr.:

Other Citation:

#### Related Policy

8110 Use of Schools as Emergency Shelters

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