

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Darien, Connecticut

SERIES 1000: COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATION
POLICY 1200-C19

Changes in this policy related to the COVID 19 pandemic are highlighted in yellow. These provisions will expire on June 30, 2021 unless action is taken by the Board of Education to extend them.

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

A. Application Procedures

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-239, the Board of Education may permit the use of any school facility for nonprofit educational or community purposes whether or not school is in session. The Board of Education may also grant the temporary use of any school facility for public, educational or other purposes, including the holding of political discussion, at such time the facility is not in use for school purposes. In addition, the Board shall grant such use for any purpose of voting under the provisions of Title 9 of the Connecticut General Statutes whether or not school is in session. In accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 7905, the Board of Education shall not deny equal access to or a fair opportunity to meet, or otherwise discriminate, against any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America (or any other youth group listed as a patriotic society in Title 36 of the United States Code) that wishes to conduct a meeting using school facilities pursuant to this policy. Such uses shall be governed by the following rules and procedures, and shall be subject to such restrictions as the Superintendent or his/her designee considers expedient.

Consistent with this policy, the Superintendent shall develop and promulgate Administrative Regulations and associated forms governing use of school buildings and facilities by community and other groups. Since the primary purpose of school facilities is for educational activities, such activities will have priority over all other requested uses and rentals during school hours will not be allowed without written permission from the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Superintendent may limit or restrict the use of school facilities by community and other groups based on the guidance of federal, state, and local health authorities and consistent with applicable law.

Applications for the use of facilities related to school-based athletics shall be submitted, in accordance with the Administrative Regulations, to the Director of Athletics at Darien High School, 80 High School Lane, Darien CT 06820. All other applications for the use of facilities should be submitted, in accordance with the Administrative Regulations, to the Director of Facilities, Board of Education Offices, 35 Leroy Avenue, Darien, CT 06820.

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Groups requesting use of school buildings and facilities must identify the specific facilities desired, and approval will be for those specific facilities only. All school equipment on the premises shall remain in the charge and control of the building principal or responsible administrator, and shall not be used without the express written permission of the administrator.

Approval of school facilities usage may be revoked at any time by the Superintendent of his/her designee.

B. Eligible Organizations and Priority of Use

Administrators responsible for approving/disapproving requests for use of school district facilities will use the following guidelines regarding priority of usage of such facilities:

Order of priority:

1. School sponsored curricular programs and activities
2. School-sponsored extracurricular programs and activities
3. Activities of school-related organizations (e.g. PTO, Booster Clubs, After Graduation Committees, and similar organizations)
4. Town department or agency activities
5. Darien YMCA programs and activities, as per contractual arrangement with the Board of Education
6. Activities of non-profit organizations operating within the Town, other than school-related organizations covered by category #3 above
7. Activities of for-profit organizations operating within the Town
8. Out-of-Town organizations (first priority to non-profit institutions)

NOTE: To be considered a Local Non-Profit or Local Youth Sports group, the following criteria apply:

- ***The group must have 501-C-3 certification***
- ***The group must be based in Darien***
- ***66% or more of the participants must be Darien residents***
- ***Roster must be submitted to the Facilities Department***

C. Restrictions on Use of School Facilities

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The following restrictions shall apply to the use of school facilities:

1. Illegal activities will not be tolerated.
2. Use or possession of tobacco, e-cigarettes, alcoholic beverages or unauthorized controlled substances shall not be permitted on school property.
3. Refreshments may not be prepared, served or consumed without the prior approval of the responsible administrator. Notwithstanding, only those beverages permitted by state law may be sold during the school day. The responsible administrator may permit other beverages to be sold at the location of events occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend as long as they are not sold from a vending machine or at a school store. Upon approval by the administrator, refreshments may be prepared, served and consumed only in areas designated by the responsible administrator.
4. Obscene advertising, decorations or materials shall not be permitted on school property.
5. Advertising, decorations or other materials that promote the use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, e-cigarette products or alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted.
6. Activities that are disruptive of the school environment are not permitted.

Any violation of this Policy or any applicable Administrative Regulations may result in permanent revocation of the privilege to use school facilities against the organization and/or individuals involved.

D. Fees and Other Costs

Users of school facilities shall be responsible for the fees and costs set out in a fee schedule established by the Superintendent with the approval of the Board of Education. The fee schedule, including associated costs, is reviewed annually and shall be available in the office of the Director of Facilities and on the district's website.

“Associated costs” shall include, but shall not be limited to, fees for the services of any custodial personnel, food service personnel, security personnel or other personnel deemed by the responsible administrator to be necessary in connection with the use of a school district facility. Such costs shall be at the rates set forth in the fee schedule. Rental fees and/or associated costs otherwise applicable may be waived by the

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Superintendent or his/her designee if such waiver is deemed by the Superintendent or his/her designee to be in the best interest of the school system and/or the Town.

E. Responsibility for Damage to Property or Loss of Property

In order to use school district facilities, any organization or individual requesting such use must agree to assume responsibility for any damage to and/or theft or loss of any school district property arising out of the use of the facilities.

F. Health and Safety Protocols

In order to use school district facilities, any organization or individual requesting such use must agree to abide by all health and safety protocols in place by the school district at the time of use, including but not limited to protocols relating to cleaning of the facilities, signage, and health screenings of individuals requesting access to the facilities.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes §10-239	Use of School Facilities for Other Purposes
Connecticut General Statutes 10-215f	Certification that food meets nutrition standards
Connecticut General Statutes §10-221q	Sale of beverages
Connecticut General Statutes Title 9	Elections
20 U.S.C. § 7905	Equal Access to Public School for the Boy Scouts of America
26 U.S.C § 101 et seq.	Patriotic and National Organizations

“Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together,” Connecticut State Department of Education (June 29, 2020), available at <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/CTReopeningSchools.pdf>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON: September 19, 1999

REVISED : February 24, 2015, (Effective July 1, 2015)
November 10, 2020

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Darien, Connecticut

SERIES 1000: COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATION

SERIES 1000: COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATION

POLICY R-1200 FACILITY USE
APPLICATION
Darien Public Schools

School Requested: _____
Organization: _____

Nonprofit or For Profit (Please circle one)

Name of the Event: _____

Area Within School _____

Or

Field (s) Requested _____

Date of Use _____

Hours of Use _____

Date of Use _____

Hours of Use _____

Date of Use _____

Hours of Use _____

Approx. # Users _____

Individual in Charge

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone (h) _____ (cell) _____

Email address _____

Police required ___ Yes ___ No Fire watch required ___ Yes ___ No

Sound/Lighting Manager required ___ Yes ___ No

FOR DARIEN BOARD OF EDUCATION USE ONLY:

Approved by:

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Darien, Connecticut

School Principal

Facilities Dept.

Comments/Special Instructions:

INSURANCE REC'D _____ **POLICE ORDERED** _____ **CHARGE** _____

GUIDELINES for School Events & Rentals – Please read

- MAJOR school functions take priority (i.e., fairs, concerts, etc.) All outside requests for DHS, are not available until **90 days** prior to the event.
- Notify the school principal of the proposed activity and obtain verbal approval.
- Call the Facilities Department (656-7417) at least 72 hours in advance to tentatively schedule activity.
- Complete application and submit to Facilities Department after obtaining Principal's signature.
- Custodial services may be required for all weekday elementary school functions after 4:30 p.m. and for all weekday secondary school functions after 6:00 p.m. as well as all school functions on weekends and holidays. Police and fire services may be required and will be scheduled by the Facilities Department. **CANCELLATION OF POLICE DUE TO ACTIVITY CANCELLATION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EVENT CHAIRPERSON. EIGHT (8) HOUR PRIOR NOTICE MUST BE GIVEN. OTHERWISE POLICE WILL CHARGE SCHEDULED FEE.**
- For student activities where an admission fee is charged, there will be no fee for the use of the facility; but there will be a fee charged for each custodian as well as the actual cost of fire and police required.
- Notification of cancellation of the activity must be received by the Facilities Department 24 hours in advance of the scheduled event.
- Faculty and students must provide work crews to set up, take down, clean up and return all borrowed items such as chairs and tables to their original locations at the end of every scheduled event.
- Any damage to school property as a result of this event must be reported to the Director of Facilities and through the building principal as soon as possible.

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- **OUTSIDE RENTALS-** *Please submit this form to Sheila Flinn to sflinn@darienps.org. Once your event has been approved by the Administrators, you will receive a Contract and Cost Estimate. You will be required to submit a Certificate of Liability Insurance and deposit.*

PLEASE NOTE: ANY TABLES/CHAIRS NEEDED IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS AVAILABLE FOR USE ON SCHOOL PREMISES NEED TO BE RENTED AND IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EVENT COORDINATORS

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USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES
(Administrative Regulations)

INDEMNIFICATION AND RELEASE

This form is valid for a period of one calendar year from the date signed for each application of usage which is made.

In consideration of the permission granted to it by the Board of Education to use the school building, grounds, facilities, and/or equipment, the undersigned, does hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Board of Education and the Town of Darien, their employees, agents, contractors and assigns against any and all loss or expense, including attorneys fees, court costs, damages, liability and any other amounts for any and all bodily injuries, including death, and/or for any and all property damage sustained accidentally or otherwise sustained by any person arising out of or connected with the undersigned's use of the school building, grounds, facilities, and/or equipment.

The undersigned further waives the right to initiate and/or pursue in any manner any and all lawsuits and any other claims in any forum against the Board of Education or the Town of Darien, its individual Board members, officers, employees, agents, contractors and assigns for any injury or harm connected to the undersigned's use of the Board's facilities, including but not limited to claims for negligent acts or omissions and/or claims for death and/or serious bodily injury and/or claims for property damage.

The undersigned assumes responsibility for any damage to and/or theft or loss of any school district property arising out of the use of the buildings, grounds, facilities, and/or equipment.

The undersigned has read and agrees to abide by the terms of the Board of Education policies pertaining to use of Board buildings, grounds, facilities, and/or equipment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____, 20__.

February 2015
REVISED: November 10, 2020