

ARTICLE IV: FACILITIES

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POLICY 2-4.1 COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

For the purposes of this policy, “school facilities” are defined as buildings, grounds and equipment owned or operated by the Poquoson City School Board. The primary purpose of these facilities is for the support of the instructional program. However, the School Board encourages the use of these facilities by the public when such use will not interfere with the basic purposes of the educational program. The School Board and the administration retain exclusive authority to terminate uses that become disruptive.

Charges and fees for the use of these school facilities are designed not to limit or prohibit use, but to protect citizens from the expenditures of public money appropriated for classroom instruction and for other purposes. The expenses of heating, lights, water and custodial services, as well as protection of school property and security of the buildings when various groups use school facilities, make it necessary to have specific regulations with relation to the use of schools, buildings and grounds. Because schools are educational institutions, their facilities should be used in an appropriate manner to enhance the education and culture of the community. Requests for permission to use school facilities for programs that do not meet this basic standard shall be denied.

School facilities may be used for public dances at the discretion of the principal. School departmental facilities, such as laboratories, music, vocational and commercial departments, generally shall not be made available for non-school use. Use of school facilities on Sundays may be limited.

The division superintendent is authorized to permit the use of school property and to issue regulations consistent with School Board policies for the proper administration of the use of school facilities. The division superintendent will annually review fees charged for facility use. Fees are outlined in the Superintendent’s Regulation and may be adjusted as needed. The division superintendent shall submit to the School Board a monthly report on the use of school facilities.

Poquoson City Public Schools and the City of Poquoson work together in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as they work together to share facilities, grounds and resources. The superintendent will sign the MOU on behalf of the school division. Revisions to the MOU will be made when necessary.

Concessions on School Property

Outside groups may be permitted to use athletic field concession stands. Approval by the division superintendent or his designee of such requests shall be contingent upon the groups abiding by School Board policies, paying the appropriate fees and submitting the proper application forms. The fees shall be established and from time-to-time revised in regulations prepared by the division superintendent or his designee.

Eligible Organizations

The School Board permits use of school facilities by non-school organizations to the extent permitted by and consistent with applicable law. The requirements of the regular school program shall receive first consideration in the use of school facilities. School-related organizations shall have priority over non-school-related organizations.

Concussions

Each non-interscholastic youth sports program utilizing school facilities shall either (i) establish policies and procedures regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes, consistent with either the Policy 7-4.1 and the accompanying Superintendent's Regulation or the Virginia Board of Education's Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes, or (ii) follow Policy 7-4.1 and the accompanying Superintendent's Regulation.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-79, 22.1-131, 22.1-132, 4.1-309; Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. § 4071, et seq.; No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, P.L. 107-110.

Adopted: November 2002

Revised: July 2003, September 2014

POLICY 2-4.2 USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT

School equipment may be loaned to responsible community groups for a worthy educational, civic, or charitable purpose when:

1. the group borrowing the equipment agrees to accept responsibility for repairing or replacing any equipment damaged or lost while in its possession;
2. the equipment is not unusually expensive or subject to easy damage;
3. the equipment is in good condition; and
4. the group will provide a competent operator for any machine loaned.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-131, 22.1-132.

Adopted: November 2002

POLICY 2-4.3 PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

All visitors shall register at the relevant Poquoson City Public School office on arrival. Any person found to be engaged in or advocating illegal activity while on school property, including school buses, shall be reported by the principal to the local law enforcement authorities. It is unlawful for any person to enter a school at nighttime without the consent of an authorized person except to attend a meeting or service.

Persons violating this provision may be prosecuted. It is prohibited for any person to enter or remain on any school property, including school buses, in violation of :

1. any direction to vacate the property by an authorized individual or
2. any posted notice which contains such information, posted at a place where it reasonably may be seen. See policy 2-3.6

Any person who willfully and maliciously damages, destroys or defaces any school division building, damages or removes any school property from a school building may be prosecuted. Any person who willfully interrupts, or disturbs the operation of any school or, being intoxicated, disturbs the same, whether willfully or not, may be prosecuted. Each student or his parents shall be required to reimburse the School Board for any actual breakage or destruction of property done by the student as permitted by applicable law. Smoking and use of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at all times in school buildings.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 4.1-309, 15.2-2800, et seq., 18.2-415, 18.2-128; 20 U.S.C. § 6083.

Adopted: November 2002

POLICY 2-4.4 TOBACCO USE ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

The use and distribution of any tobacco product or nicotine vapor product, as those terms are defined in § 18.2371.2 of the Code of Virginia, are prohibited at all times and under all circumstances in all Poquoson City Public School buildings, vehicles, or at an on-site or off-site school-sponsored activity.

Each principal shall post signs stating "No Smoking", as applicable within each school building. The supervisor of transportation shall post signs visible upon entering each school bus stating "No Smoking."

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 15.2-2800, et seq., 22.1-79.5; 20 U.S.C., § 6083, § 15.2-2820.

Adopted: November 2002

Revised: August 2019

POLICY 2-4.5 WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

No person may possess a firearm on school property other than persons expressly authorized by statute.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-280.2:4

Adopted: June 2020