

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in October	Descriptor Term: Community Use of School Facilities	Descriptor Code: 3.206	Issued Date: 07/08/13
		Rescinds: 3.206	Issued: 01/14/02

When not in use for school purposes, school buildings and grounds or portions thereof may be used for public, governmental, charitable, civic, recreational, cultural, and other purposes as approved by the Board.^{1, 2,3}

1. Requests for the use of school facilities shall be made in writing and shall be submitted for approval at the office of the principal prior to the date of use;
2. Student clubs and activities, parent-teacher associations, and other organizations affiliated with the schools shall be permitted use of school facilities without charge;
3. School facilities may not be used for private profit, except that unused facilities may be leased for private day-care centers which provide educational and child care services to the community;²
4. All activities must be under adult supervision and approved by the building principal. A school employee may be required to be present, at the discretion of the principal. The group using the facilities will be responsible for any damage to the building or equipment;
5. Groups receiving permission for building use are restricted to the dates and hours approved and to the building area and facilities specified, unless requested changes are approved by the principal;
6. Groups receiving permission for building use are responsible for the observance of all fire and safety regulations at all times;
7. The use of alcoholic beverages, drugs or tobacco, profane language, or gambling in any form is not permitted in school buildings;
8. The Board will cooperate with recognized agencies, such as the Red Cross, National Guard and Civil Defense, and will make suitable facilities available without charge during community emergencies;
9. When school kitchens are used, at least one member of the cafeteria staff must be present to supervise the use of the equipment; and
10. The Board will approve and periodically review a fee schedule for the use of school facilities.

Legal References:

1. TCA 49-50-201
2. TCA 49-2-203(b)(4)
3. *Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District*
113 S. Ct. 2141 (1993)

Cross References:

- Tobacco-Free Schools 1.803
 Care of School Property 6.311