

# REGULATION

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Use of School Facilities

### R7510 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

#### A. Classification of Users

Organizations and individuals using school facilities will be classified as Class I, II, or III users as follows:

1. Class I users will be given priority for the use of school facilities over other users and may use school district facilities without payment of a use fee or charge for custodial and service (fuel, water, and electricity) costs. Class I users include the following organizations and individuals:
  - a. Uses and groups directly related to the schools and the operations of the schools, including pupil and teacher groups;
  - b. Uses and organizations indirectly related to the schools, including the P.T.A., P.T.O., Home-School Association, and other school-parent related organizations;
2. Class II users will be given priority for the use of school facilities over Class III users and may use school district facilities without payment of a use fee but will be charged custodial and service costs. Class II users include the following organizations and individuals:
  - a. Departments and agencies of the municipal government;
  - b. Governmental agencies;
  - c. Community organizations formed for charitable, civic, social, or educational purposes;
  - d. Community church groups;



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For Class II categories a. and b., the Governing Body will use the Paterson Police Department to monitor the participants coming and going.

3. Class III users will be given lowest priority for the use of school facilities and may use school district facilities only on payment of a use fee and charges for custodial and service costs. Class III users include the following organizations and individuals:
  - a. Private groups and organizations;
  - b. Community political organizations;
  - c. Private social function;
  - d. Commercial or profit-making organization;
  - e. Partisan political activity
4. No other organizations or individuals will be permitted to use school facilities.

### B. Application Procedures

1. Initial request can be verbal and/or written. An appropriate designee will input and submit an electronic request for approval. Applicants may contact the site administrator and/or the Facilities Department.
2. The initial request for use of school facilities must be submitted to the site administrator and/or principal within a reasonable time period. A use that requires the approval of the Board must be submitted not less than fifteen (15) working days prior to a regular Board meeting and not less than thirty (30) working days before the date of the requested use.



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3. Request that is deemed required to have Board approval must be submitted in writing and signed by an adult representative of the requesting organization, who will be considered by the Board to be the agent of the organization. Types of request that require Board approval are as follows, making a movie, commercial, video, theater or musical production and/or conference.
4. The request must include all the facilities the applicant wish to use and all the dates and times of the requested use. Approval of any request is limited to the facilities, dates, and times expressly requested. Approval does not include the privilege of additional rehearsal time or the use of rooms or buildings not expressly requested.
5. The request must include all the equipment and supplies that the applicant wishes to include in the use, pursuant to Policy No. 7520, Loan of School Equipment.

### C. Approval

1. The Superintendent, Director of Facilities or designee will review each request and check the school calendar to determine whether the facility requested is available at the date and time requested, that is, the facility have not been scheduled
  - a. For use in the instructional or co-curricular program,
  - b. For maintenance, repair, or capital improvement, or
  - c. For use by another organization.
2. If the facility is not available for use, the facility administrator will so inform the representative of the organization and may suggest alternative dates, times, or facilities.



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3. If the facility is available for use and the applicant meets the standards set by Policy No. 7510 and these regulations, the site manager or site designee may input and note his/her approval within the electronic approval system. The facility administrator will record the classification of the requested organization and forward the request to the Superintendent, Director of Facilities or designee, for final approval or for referral to the Board for requests that may be approved only by the Board.
4. Applicants may be required to meet with Board Commissioners to present their proposal and review program and/or projects. During this meeting, they may be required to enter into contracts ensuring their requested program and/or activity does not violate district policies and established norms.
5. Standards for approval include the following limitations on use:
  - a. School facilities are available for use only on weekdays, including school vacations.

School facilities may be available for use on Saturdays, Sundays, and other public holidays depending on appropriate and adequate custodial coverage.
  - b. School facilities are available for use only during the hours of 3:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Permission may be granted for a use up to 11:00 p.m., provided the user pay an overtime fee regardless of the user's classification. School facilities are not available for use during the school day or for any use that may interfere with the school district's educational or co-curricular programs.



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- c. The use of school facilities will generally not be granted for observances or celebrations that are essentially private in nature or for meetings of small groups that can conveniently convene in private homes.
  - d. In accordance with Policy No. 7510, the use of school facilities will not be granted for any purpose that is prohibited by law.
- 6. The Superintendent, Director of Facilities or designee will determine the classification (I, II, or III) of the requested organization and the fees and costs, if any, to be charged for the use of the facility. This information will be provided to the requested organization.
  - 7. In the event of a conflict between requesting organizations within the same class, the request received earlier by the district will be honored first.
  - 8. A copy of each approved or disapproved request will be distributed electronically to the representative who made the initial request.
  - 9. The request will include the rules governing the use of school facilities, and the representative's signature on the request will signify notice of those rules and the organization's agreement to be bound by those rules.
  - 10. The Board reserves the right to deny a request and to withdraw permission to use school facilities after approval has been granted and after the use has commenced. Permission may specifically be withdrawn from any organization whose representative has willfully made misrepresentation during the initial request or whose members violate the rules established for the use of school facilities. Such withdrawal of



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permission may constitute grounds for denying a future request made by the organization.

11. The Superintendent and/or designee reserve the right to change the location and/or date of an approved event in cases of an emergency.
12. Permission to use school facilities is not transferable.
13. The organization representative must inform the Superintendent, Director of Facilities or designee of any canceled use request as soon as he/she is aware of the cancellation. An organization's failure to inform the Superintendent, Director of Facilities or designee of a canceled use at least three (3) working days in advance of the scheduled time of the use may result in imposition of service charges.
14. Permission to use a school facility is automatically withdrawn on a day when the facility is closed for inclement weather, work stoppage, or other emergency.

## D. Insurance and Indemnification

1. The representative of an organization granted permission to use a school facility must assume responsibility for the orderly and careful use of the facility and must agree to assume liability for any damage or loss of property caused by the use or in the course of the use.
2. The organization and/or its representative will hold the Board of Education harmless from claims arising out of the permitted use of the school facility or during the user's occupancy. In addition, the user shall agree to save the Board harmless from liability for injury or damage to any person or property of any person who may be attending or participating in the



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function or activity for which permission has been granted.

3. The user shall furnish evidence of the purchase of liability insurance in the amount of:
  - a. Each occurrence \$1,000,000
  - b. Fire damage (Any one fire) \$1,000,000
  - c. Medical expense (Any one person) \$5,000
  - d. Personal and ADV injury \$1,000,000
  - e. General aggregate \$3,000,000
  - f. Products - comp/op AGG \$3,000,000
4. Any youth sports team organization that is granted permission to use school facilities must provide the school district proof of an insurance policy against liability for any bodily injury in the amount of not less than \$50,000 per person per occurrence, insuring the youth sports team organization against liability for any bodily injury suffered by a person. The youth sports team organization must also provide a statement of compliance with the school district's Policy and Regulation 2431.4 - Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries, which will be provided to the adult representative of the requesting organization with the application to use school facilities.

For the purpose of this Policy, a "youth sports team organization" means one or more sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.



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## E. Rules for the Use of School Facilities

1. Users of school facilities will be bound by the law.
  - a. Users must comply strictly with all applicable statutes; municipal ordinances; and rules of the Board of Health, Fire Department, and Police Department regarding public assemblies.
  - b. The use must not exceed the established capacity of the facility used.
  - c. The use must not involve gambling or games of chance.
  - d. The use, possession, and/or distribution of alcohol and/or controlled dangerous substances is absolutely prohibited, in accordance with law and Policy Nos. 5530 and 7435.
  - e. Smoking is prohibited in accordance with Policy No. 7434.
  - f. School facilities cannot be used for any purpose prohibited by law or likely to result in rioting, disturbance of the peace, damage to property or for the purpose of defaming others.
2. Users of school facilities will respect Board property.
  - a. The user will not damage, destroy, or deface school property. The facility shall be used with care and left in an orderly and neat condition.
  - b. The user must request and receive permission to bring and use equipment, decorations, or materials to the school facility. No equipment, decorations, or materials may be nailed to floors, walls, windows, woodwork, curtains or fixtures or affixed to the same in any manner that defaces or damages school property or grounds.





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- c. Any equipment, scenery, decorations, or other material brought to the school facility and any debris caused by the use or remaining after the use must be promptly removed by the user. Any such materials left on school premises beyond the time period approved in the application may be removed by the Board at the user's expense. The Board assumes no liability for damage to or loss of materials brought to school facilities.
- d. The user must request and receive permission to use, move, or tune a district piano. A piano may be moved only by school district staff or by a competent and experienced commercial mover approved by the Board and at the expense of the user. Any piano that has been moved must be returned to its original placement with the same care and at the expense of the user.
- e. Users of the gymnasium must ensure that all participants wear rubber-soled footwear to prevent damage to floors.
- f. No school facility may be used for a purpose in conflict with the purpose for which the facility was designed.
- g. Lighting equipment, ventilation systems, and thermostatic controls may be operated only by an employee of the district.
- h. The user must request and receive permission to serve and consume food and/or beverages on school premises. The service and consumption of food and/or beverages is strictly limited to the area for which permission is granted. If food and/or beverages are served, the user must clean all utensils, equipment, serving dishes, and the like and restore the facility to its proper condition.



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The user may not consume food, beverages, or use supplies purchased with public funds.

- i. No signs, posters, advertisements, or other displays may be placed in a school building without prior approval.
  - j. No school keys shall be issued to a user.
  - k. No animal shall be allowed on school premises without prior approval.
  - l. An authorized school district staff member shall examine the school facilities and/or grounds after the use and will inform the user of any loss or damage that must be corrected.
  - m. Permission to use school facilities extends only to the facility requested. Users are not entitled to enter health offices, administrative offices, storage closets, or any other room to which permission to use has not been expressly granted. Users are not permitted to use district telephones, word processors, and office equipment.
  - n. No vehicles of any type shall be operated in any area that is not designed for such vehicles without prior permission.
3. Uses Must be Properly Supervised.
- a. A school custodian must be on duty during the entire time a use occurs. The custodian is present for the purpose of ensuring the security and proper functioning of the facility and of enforcing these regulations. The custodian is paid by the Board and may not accept gratuities from users. If the custodian is needed to perform extra services as an accommodation to the user, the user may be charged an additional fee and the



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custodian will be compensated accordingly by the district.

- b. The use of certain school facilities (such as kitchen and auditorium stage) requires the services of school employees trained in the use of the facility. The user will be charged an additional fee and the school employee will be compensated accordingly by the district.
- c. The user must assume full responsibility for the conduct of all participants in the use while they are in or about school buildings and grounds and must enforce these regulations. The user must provide an adequate number of persons to supervise participants in the activity. The district, depending on the activity, may require as a condition of approval, a certain number of chaperones, law enforcement officials, and/or a school district representative(s) to be present at the activity.
- d. The user must, in consultation with the Principal, anticipate the need for the assistance of police officers, fire fighters, and/or parking attendants. All such services must be arranged by the user and will be at the expense of the user. When a user refuses or fails to secure police, fire, and/or parking assistance after having been advised to do so by the Principal, the Principal may recommend that permission to use the facility be withdrawn.
- e. Board members and school officials are entitled to full and free access to any part of the school premises during any use. No user may exclude a Board member or school official from a school facility for any reason.



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## F. Fee Schedule

1. Class I users will not be charged a fee or costs for the use of schools, except that special charges for the specific services of school employees rendered pursuant to paragraph E3a and paragraph E3b will be billed.
2. Class II users will not be charged a facility fee, but will be charged:
  - a. For the specific services of school employees rendered pursuant to paragraph E3a and paragraph E3b, if any, and
  - b. For service costs of the use as follows:

Custodial costs: \$60.00 per hour

Security costs: \$60.00 per hour
3. Class III users will be charged the costs charged Class II users (paragraph F2a and paragraph F2b) and the following facility fee for each four hours' use:

Facility	Fee
High school auditorium	\$400.00
High school gymnasium	\$200.00
High school cafeteria	\$150.00
High school athletic field	\$400.00*
High school classroom	\$80.00
Elementary school auditorium	\$300.00
Elementary school gymnasium	\$150.00
Elementary school cafeteria	\$100.00
Elementary school classroom	\$60.00
Elementary School Playground	\$200.00
Parking	\$250.00
Central Office	
Conference Room (Large)	\$100.00
Central Office	



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Conference Room (Medium)	\$80.00
Central Office	
Conference Room (Small)	\$60.00

4. An itemized bill for the use of school facilities will be prepared based on the approved application form. The bill will be sent to the representative of the applicant organization in advance of the use and payment may be requested in advance of the use. The Superintendent reserves the right to request and/or recommend reduced fees and/or waive fees for the requested event.

### G. Special Regulations in Each Building

The Superintendent, Director of Facilities, Principal or designee, may establish special regulations that may pertain to individual buildings or facilities.

### H. Provision of Training on School Safety and Security

1. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.c., the Board of Education shall provide to all persons who supervise youth programs that are not sponsored by the school district, but operate a program in a district building before or after school hours, on the weekend, or during a period when school is not in session, information on the district's school practices and procedures in the event of a school safety or security incident at a school including non-confidential information on evacuation procedures, emergency response protocols, and emergency contact information.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the organization that sponsors the youth program to train the program's employees and volunteers on the school security and emergency procedures in effect in the school building in which the youth program is located.



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3. The organization that sponsors the youth program shall file a statement of assurance with the Superintendent or designee that it has complied with the training requirements prior to the district authorizing the use of the school building.
  - a. The statement of assurance shall be developed by the Commissioner of Education and shall be filed with the school district on an annual basis.

Issued: 17 June 2009  
Reissued: 13 January 2014  
Reissued: 05 May 2017  
Reissued: 19 February 2020  
Reissued: 06 January 2021  
Revised: 15 March 2023

