

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

I. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Education, (the Board) that the Waterville Central School District's school facilities may be used by residents for activities that are educational, cultural, social, recreational or civic in nature and conducted primarily for the benefit of district residents. However, if there is a conflict between a requested community use and a school sponsored activity, the school-sponsored activity will be granted use of the requested facility.

Requests for use of school facilities must be made in writing on the Community Use of School Facilities Request Form. For organizations that are already classified class 1 or class 2 requests must be submitted to the Superintendent at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date of requested use. For groups not classified request must be submitted within 60 days in advance of the date of requested use. The Superintendent will submit a recommendation for classification at the next scheduled Board meeting after the classification request is received. (Regulation 1010.3). The Board is authorized to grant, refuse, limit or condition permission to use school facility within the spirit and limitations of school policy and regulations. The Superintendent's actions pursuant to this paragraph may be reviewed by the Board.

II. The Authority of the Board

The authority of the Board to permit the use of schoolhouses, grounds and facilities is subject to Article XI, Section 3, of the New York State Constitution and Sections 414 of the Education Law of New York.

The Board's authority to permit the use of school facilities by community groups is delegated to the Superintendent of Schools, who will seek counsel as necessary.

A. Section 414: Use of School Buildings and Grounds Out-of-School Hours.

School Buildings and the ground connected therewith and all property belonging to the District shall be in the custody and under the control and supervision of the trustees or Board of the district. The trustees or Board may adopt reasonable regulations of the use of such school buildings, grounds or other property, when not in use for school purposes, for such other public purposes as herein provided. Such regulations shall provide for the safety and security of the students and shall not conflict with the provisions of this chapter and shall conform to the purposes and intent of this section, and shall be subject to review on appeal to the Commissioner of Education, as provided by law. The trustees or Board of each district may, subject to regulations adopted as above provided, permit the use of

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the school buildings and rooms therein, and the grounds and other property of the district, when not in use for school purposes, if in the opinion of the Board, use will not be disruptive of normal school operations, for any of the following purposes:

1. For the purpose of instruction in any branch of education, learning or the arts.
2. For public library purposes, subject to the provisions of the Education Law, or as stations of public libraries.
3. For holding social, civic and recreational meetings and entertainment, and other uses pertaining to the welfare of the community; but such meetings, entertainment and uses shall be non-exclusive and shall be open to the general public.
4. For meetings, entertainment and occasions where admission fees are charged, where the proceeds thereof are to be expended for an educational or charitable purpose; but such use shall not be permitted if such meetings, entertainment and occasions are under the exclusive control, and the said proceeds are to be applied for the benefit of a society, association or organization of a religious sect or denomination, or of a fraternal, secret or exclusive society or organization other than organization of veterans of the military, naval and marine service of the United States and organizations of volunteer firemen.
5. For polling places for holding primaries and elections and for the registration of voters and for holding political meetings. But no meetings sponsored by political organizations shall be permitted unless authorized by a vote of district meetings, held as provided by law, or in cities by the Board thereof. It shall be the duty of the Board to call a special meeting for such purposes upon the petition of at least ten percent of the qualified electors of the district. Authority so granted shall continue until revoked in like manner and by the same body as granted.
6. For civic forums and community centers - Upon the petition of at least twenty-five (25) citizens residing within the district, the Board shall organize and conduct community centers for civic purposes, and civic forums in the several school districts, to promote and advance principals of Americanism among the residents of the state. The Board when organizing such community centers or civic forums, shall provide funds for the maintenance and support of such community centers and civic forums, and shall prescribe regulations for their conduct and supervision,

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providing that nothing herein contained shall prohibit the Board to prescribe and adopt rules and regulations to make such community centers or civic forums self-supporting as far as practicable. Such community centers and civic forums shall be at all times under the control of the Board and shall be nonexclusive and open to the general public.

7. For classes of instruction for disabled individuals operated by a private organization approved by the Commissioner of Education, rent for the use of such facilities may be demanded by said Board.
8. For Recreation, physical training and athletics, including competitive athletic contest of children attending a private nonprofit school.
9. To provide child care services during non-school hours, provided that the cost of such care shall not be a school district charge but shall be paid by the person responsible for the support of such child; the local social services district as authorized by law; or by any other public or private voluntary source or any combination thereof.

B. Use of School Buildings by News Media.

The Board may permit, subject to terms and conditions satisfactory to such Board, the admission of persons and equipment of any news medium to school grounds, school buildings, school buildings and other locations for the dissemination of information by print, broadcast recording or other means, of athletic events, concerns, lectures and similar activities taking place there at of interest to the general public; provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the broadcasting or televising of any such events or activities with or without commercial sponsorship.

III. Classification of School Groups:

A. **Class I.** Use of Facilities by school groups (including school staff members):

School facilities may be used without a rental charge and without a charge for custodial service by any regularly sponsored school activity.

This includes PTO and school booster club meetings and PTO-SPONSORED groups, organizations and activities when custodians are regularly on duty.

B. **Class II.** Civic, Cultural, Religious and Service Groups

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School facilities may be used by civic groups, service clubs, music, religious organizations, dramatic and literary organizations or other nonexclusive groups, organizations or activities as provided by regulations established by the Board providing the school district: is reimbursed as scheduled, when reimbursement is called for under these regulations. The Board, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to waive the charges scheduled in favor of fees for custodial services only when the proceeds of activities sponsored by organizations in this classification are used exclusively for the benefit of the school or charitable purpose.

- C. By resolution, the Board at the re-organizational meeting shall classify each community group that has requested the use of facilities for the previous twelve month period according to the criteria stated above.
- D. Any organization not classified at the re-organizational meeting will need to submit a request for classification prior to approval of the Building Use Request Form. (Regulation 1010.3).

IV. Restricted Use Due To Budget

In the event that the district is operating under a contingent budget, the use of school facilities will be restricted in accordance with New York State Law and decisions of the Commissioner of Education.

Waterville Central School District

Legal Ref: NYS Education Law, §§ 414 and 2801; NYS

Adopted: 01/14/80

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