

The Policy Committee approved changes in blue at its public work sessions on 8/9/22 and 9/13/22.

File: KG

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES BY NON-SCHOOL GROUPS

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the use of school facilities by non-school groups.

II. Background

Maryland law allows local boards of education to open their school facilities for community purposes such as the presentation and discussion of public questions, public speaking, lectures, or other civic, educational, social, or recreational purposes or church-affiliated civic purposes.

The Board of Education encourages the use by the public of school facilities for community purposes ~~at times~~. ~~when that use does that will~~ not interfere with regular school sessions or other bona fide school activities.

III. Policy Statement/Procedures

- A. The Board of Education may allow the use of school facilities by non-school groups in accordance with state law, this policy, and the accompanying administrative regulation. Use of school facilities by non-school groups may only be used at times that will not interfere with regular school sessions or other bona fide school activities. ~~School facilities may not be used by individuals for parties, receptions, yard sales, or similar functions that are essentially private in nature. The Superintendent is authorized to establish procedures to provide for the use of school facilities by non-school groups provided, however, that the actual costs of operation are defrayed by the user.~~
- B. A partisan political organization that has polled 10 percent or more of the entire vote cast in Maryland in the last general election is permitted to use public school facilities for programs and meetings that relate to a political campaign for nomination or election of a candidate to public office.
- C. The Board of Education shall give priority to nonprofit child care programs for use of school facilities before and after school hours.
- D. The Board of Education may charge a reasonable fee for heating, lighting, and cleaning services for use of school facilities.
- E. The Board of Education will hold non-school groups who use school facilities responsible for all damages to the school facilities, other than ordinary wear and tear.
- F. The Superintendent is authorized to promulgate an administrative regulation to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, Sections 7-108, 7-109, 7-110 and ~~7-111—2001~~

Policy Adopted: September 14, 1976. Amended: August 19, 2003. Revised:
Board of Education of Washington County