

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL PREMISES  
(Equal Access)

Although the basic purpose of public school premises is to provide the youth of the community a sound educational program, the complete function of education is not achieved until the school premises are made to serve the entire community. To accomplish this objective, when school premises are not in use for school purposes, the Board shall, upon payment of the prescribed fee and subject to the requirements of applicable regulations, permit the use of school premises for auxiliary, educational, recreational, cultural, civic, social, religious or other Board-approved purposes.

Any school within the District receiving Title I funding must offer the same premises access to Boy Scouts as to other organizations.

The District may rent or lease premises to a public or nonpublic university for use for evening and summer classes.

[Adoption date: May 31, 2011]

[Re-adoption date: May 18, 2015]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
Title VIII, Section 801  
ORC 3311.215  
3313.75; 3313.76; 3313.77; 3313.78; 3313.79  
4303.26

CROSS REFS.: KGB, Public Conduct on District Property  
KI, Public Solicitations in the Schools

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The Board believes that District premises should be made available for community purposes, provided that such use does not infringe on the original and necessary purpose of the premises or interfere with the educational program of the schools.

The Board permits the use of District premises when such permission has been requested in writing by a responsible organization or a group of citizens and has been approved by the Superintendent.

District premises are available for the below-listed uses. When there are competing interests, approval will be given according to the following priorities:

1. uses directly related to the schools and the operations of the schools;
2. uses and groups indirectly related to the schools;
3. meetings of employee associations;
4. uses for voter registration and elections;
5. departments or agencies of the municipal government;
6. other governmental agencies and
7. community organizations or groups of individuals formed for charitable, civic, social, religious, recreational and educational purposes.

Premises are also made available to any certified candidate for public office and any recognized political party or organization for the purpose of conducting public discussions of public questions and issues. The premises are free of charge and available only after regular school hours. Users shall abide by all District guidelines and rules regarding the use of District premises and be liable for any damage incurred. Under no circumstances shall the premises be used to raise funds for political purposes.

The use of District premises shall not be granted for any purpose that is prohibited by law.

Should all or any part of the District's community be struck by a disaster, the Board shall make District premises available, at no charge, for the housing, feeding and care of victims or potential victims when requested by local, state or federal authorities. The Superintendent should meet with the local governing body and American Red Cross to establish a disaster preparedness plan in order to ensure that proper procedures are established to minimize confusion, inefficiency, and disruption of the educational program.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for the granting of permission to use District premises including a schedule of fees that, together with the costs used to determine such fees, must be approved by the Board. Such guidelines are to include the following.

1. Each user shall present evidence of the purchase of organizational liability insurance to the limit prescribed by District administrative guidelines.
2. Use of school equipment in conjunction with the use of school facilities must be requested specifically in writing, and may be granted by the procedure by which permission to use District premises is granted. The users of school equipment must accept liability for any damage or loss to such equipment that occurs while it is in their use. Where rules so specify, no item of equipment may be used except by a qualified operator (cook, custodian, etc.).
3. Users shall be liable financially for damage to the premises and for proper chaperonage.

No liability shall attach to this District, or any of its employees and officers, specifically as a consequence of permitting access to District premises.

(Approval date: May 31, 2011)  
(Re-approval date: May 18, 2015)