

Community Relations

Community Use of School Facilities

School facilities are available to community organizations during non-school hours when such use does not: (1) interfere with any school function or affect the safety of students or employees, or (2) affect the property or liability of the Cooperative. The use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses. The Cooperative reserves the right to cancel previously scheduled use of facilities by community organizations and other groups. The use of school facilities requires the prior approval of the Executive Director or designee and is subject to applicable procedures.

Persons on school premises must abide by the Cooperative's conduct rules at all times.

School facilities cannot be opened to the public without providing for safeguards for the public and the Cooperative. The most basic protections that must be provided for are:

1. human safety
2. facility maintenance, and
3. liability.

The Cooperative reserves the right to deny usage of any facility if:

1. Proper procedure for requesting usage has been breached.
2. The requesting user is deemed to be proposing to utilize the facility for personal or group gain.
3. Past utilization by the requesting user indicates a history of abuse of the facility and/or unsafe or negligent practices.
4. The requesting user will in any way inhibit the Cooperative in the achievement of its responsibility as related to use of the facility.
5. The requested user denies participation to or discriminates in other ways against disabled persons in its programs and activities.

The Cooperative reserves the right to assess the user for utilization of the facility.

1. Fees will be assessed to provide for reasonable costs.
2. Costs for public school personnel will be assessed on a time basis commensurate with current salary schedules.
3. Time allotment for public school personnel shall be determined by the Cooperative principals and shall be no less than one-half hour prior to the scheduled user start time and extend to no less than one-half hour after the last of the user group has vacated the facility.
4. Cooperative principals and/or Director of Business & Operations and the responsible user will verify facility use times.

The use of Cooperative-owned equipment:

1. Equipment will be operated by Cooperative personnel, whenever possible.
2. Loss of equipment or damages to any equipment as a result of user negligence shall be the responsibility of the user.

3. Temporary modifications to the facility shall be the responsibility and liability of the user and shall be done only with the approval of Cooperative administration. Any damages to the facility resulting from such temporary modifications shall be the responsibility of the user.

Legal Responsibilities:

1. The approved user shall be liable for incidents or accidents which are the result of negligence of user responsibilities.
2. The user must agree to indemnify the Cooperative against any lawsuits and legal expenses which may arise from the use of the facilities.
3. The user must provide proof of liability insurance and name the Cooperative as a co-insured in the policy.

Student groups, school-related organizations, government agencies, and non-profit organizations are granted the use of school facilities at no costs during regularly staffed hours. Fees and costs shall apply during non-regularly staffed hours and to other organizations granted use of facilities at any time. A fee schedule and other terms of use shall be prepared by the Executive Director and be subject to annual approval by the Operational Board.

The Executive Director or designee shall develop procedures to manage community use of school facilities. Use of school facilities requires the Executive Director's approval and is subject to the procedures.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §7905.
10 ILCS 5/19-2.2.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.40, 5/10-22.10, and 5/29-3.5.
Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 121 S.Ct. 2093 (2001).
Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School District, 113 S.Ct. 2141 (1993).
Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of Univ. of Va., 515 U.S. 819 (1995).

CROSS REF.: 8:30 (Visitors to and Conduct on Cooperative Property)

ADMIN. PROC.: 8:20-AP (Community Use of School Facilities)

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Revised: 11/16/2009

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