

POLICY GUIDE

RIVER VALE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PROPERTY

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7510 Use of School Facilities

7510 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Board of Education believes that the school facilities of this district should be made available for community purposes, provided that such use does not interfere with the educational program of the schools.

The Board will permit the use of school facilities when such permission has been requested in writing and has been approved by the Superintendent of Schools, except that the Board reserves the right to withdraw permission after it has been granted.

In weighing competing requests for the use of school facilities, the Board will give priority to the following uses, in the descending order given:

1. Uses and groups directly related to the schools and the operations of the schools, including pupil and teacher groups;
2. Uses and organizations indirectly related to the schools, in the following order: P.T.A., River Vale Educational Fund., River Vale Boy or River Vale Girl Scouts;
3. Departments and agencies of municipal government; (i.e. recreation and adult recreation);
4. Governmental agencies generally;
5. Community organizations formed for charitable, civic, social, or educational purposes;
6. Community political organizations;
7. Community church groups;

70% of the members/participants, at the time of using the facilities, shall be residents of the District. The School District may require a membership list of names, addresses and phone numbers of all members/participants to verify the aforementioned criteria is met.

The use of school facilities will not be granted for the advantage of any commercial or profit-making organization, partisan political activity, private social function, or any purpose that is prohibited by law.

In general, groups from outside the school district, those desiring to use school facilities for financial profit and groups of a political or religious nature shall make application for facility

use. Such use, at a fee, may be approved by the Board only if the Board feels it would serve a worthwhile community purpose.

Each user shall present evidence of the purchase of organizational liability insurance to the limit prescribed by district regulations. Users shall be financially liable for damage to the facilities and for proper chaperonage. All activities must terminate by 10 p.m.

Use of school equipment in conjunction with the use of school facilities must be specifically requested in writing and may be granted in accordance with Policy No. 7520. The users of school equipment must accept liability for any damage or loss to such equipment that occurs while it is in their use, regardless of any assignment of negligence. Where rules so specify, no item of equipment may be used except by a qualified operator.

The Board shall approve annually a schedule of fees for the use of school facilities based upon the following guidelines:

1. The use of school facilities for activities directly related to the educational program and district operations shall be without cost to the user except that the user shall be responsible for any custodial costs incurred by the use and any fees charged by a law enforcement agency in connection with the use.
2. All other organizations or persons granted the use of school shall pay in advance the scheduled fee and the cost of any additional staff services required by the use.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the use of school facilities; such regulations shall be distributed to every user of the facilities and every applicant for the use of school facilities. Permission to use school facilities shall be granted only to persons and organizations that agree in writing to be bound by these regulations.

N.J.S.A. 18A:20-20

N.J.S.A. 18A:20-34

Cross reference:

Policy Guide Nos. 5842, 9190, 9191, 9210, 9310

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