

Business/Non-Instructional Operations

Community Use of School Facilities

The Board of Education recognizes that the school, building and grounds, is a community center and a valuable public resource. The Board is committed to making these facilities available to the community as much as possible under proper and appropriate conditions when such use does not conflict with school activities and functions. The Board of Education shall grant the use of school facilities for activities of an educational, cultural, civic, and other non-commercial uses consistent with the public interest when such use does not interfere with the school program or school-sponsored activities.

Any use of the school building and grounds by community groups or organizations must be approved by the Superintendent of Schools.

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to use his/her discretion in approving or disapproving applications under this policy. School facilities will be allocated according to the following priorities with all possible efforts to adjust schedules for mutual convenience and maximum usage.

1. School functions under the direction of the Principal and/or teachers.
2. Meetings and programs sponsored by the Board of Education, Board of Selectman, Recreation Commission, PTO or other town governmental or non-profit agencies. (Non-profit agencies, recognized youth groups, scouts, athletic organizations, 4H groups, etc.)
3. Other Pomfret non-profit community groups composed of local residents.
4. Other non-profit or profit groups with a Pomfret resident membership of 50% or greater.

The non-authorized use of school facilities by individuals, private groups and organizations or non-community groups is prohibited. A school use fee may be assessed on a case by case basis as determined by the superintendent.

Applications for the use of school facilities and grounds must be made in writing and submitted to the Superintendent of Schools at least one (1) week before the date of intended use. Agencies using the school on a long term basis must submit applications annually.

During regular school days, school vacations, and summer months, a custodian must be present when the school building is being used to insure building security, proper maintenance, and to see that it is used appropriately and left in proper order.

On weekends, a custodian must also be present when the school building is initially opened for weekend use to insure building security, proper maintenance, and to see that the area it is being used appropriately. The custodian will return at the conclusion of the event or activity to insure the area used was left in proper order. He/she will then clean and secure the building.

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Community Use of School Facilities (continued)

Any group or organization may be required to pay any or all maintenance costs, including the overtime hourly rate for custodial services when and if a custodian's time extends beyond regular employment hours, e.g., either weekends or summer hours after the regular work day.

Any group or organization using the school building, grounds, or equipment, is responsible for and must assume the cost of all damage to any school property.

The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or illicit drugs on school grounds or property is prohibited.

Parking is restricted to designated parking areas.

The Boy Scouts of America, Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Club of America, Future Farmers of America, Girls Scouts of America, Little League Baseball, Inc. and any other group intended to serve youth under the age of 21 listed in Title 36 of the U.S. Code may use school property upon payment of suitable fees and costs according to the Board approved fee schedule.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4074

Good News Club v. Milford Central School, Sup. Ct., 6-11-01

20 U.S.C. 7905 (Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act contained in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

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POMFRET PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Pomfret, Connecticut