



COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Use of School Facilities

Use of School Facilities

I. Philosophy

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) recognizes that school facilities are an essential component of the communities which they serve and encourages the use of school facilities for community purposes. The use of Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) buildings and grounds for cultural, civic, educational, recreational, and charitable purposes is a long-standing practice. The use of BCPS facilities should only be prohibited when such use interferes with the efficient administration of the educational program and/or may reasonably be anticipated to cause damage to school property.
- B. The Board is further committed to the concept of joint utilization of facilities. This has been demonstrated by sharing facilities with the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks and other agencies.

II. Guidelines

- A. It is the primary responsibility of the Board to operate schools in such a manner as to provide the optimum learning environment. It is essential that school facilities be utilized in a manner to ensure that such facilities and school property are not unduly damaged. Any commitment to joint utilization shall not impinge on the commitment to provide educational opportunities as economically and efficiently as possible.
- B. Under no circumstances should the use of school facilities for community purposes be viewed as a mechanism for keeping a school open.
- C. Organizations desiring to use school facilities shall complete an *Application for Use of School Facilities* form.
- D. The Board grants to the Superintendent the ability to reject any *Application for Use of School Facilities* if it is deemed that the building or grounds is overused or under construction.
- E. The Board reserves the right and grants to the Superintendent the authority to revoke any approved use of facilities application issued in accordance with this policy where the use of the facility interferes with the Department of Physical Facilities' projects.

- F. Permission for the use of a facility and/or grounds may be immediately revoked if an urgent need for use of a facility and/or grounds for school activities or educational purposes arise, or for a violation of operating rules and procedures.

III. Implementation

- A. The Board directs the Superintendent to develop procedures for the implementation of this policy.

Legal References: 29 U.S.C. §794, *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973*
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213, *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)*
42 U.S.C. §§2000D, *Et Seq., Title VI of Civil Rights Act of 1964*, as amended
28 CFR Part 35, *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-108, *Use of School Property for Other than School Purposes – In General*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-109, *Use of School Property for Other than School Purposes – Priority for Day Care Program*
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-110, *Charges for Use and Liability for Damages*
COMAR 13A.02.04, *Tobacco-free School Environment Authority*
COMAR 29.06.01, *Fire Prevention Code Authority: Public Safety Article*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 1210, *Relationship with Parent-Teacher (Student) Associations*
Board of Education Policy 2352, *Health and Safety*
Board of Education Policy 2361, *Distribution of Non-School Materials*
Board of Education Policy 2370, *Conduct*
Board of Education Policy 2372, *Tobacco*

Board of Education Policy 3125, *School Activity Funds*
Board of Education Policy 3130, *Relationships with Private Business for Purpose of Providing Products or Services to Students*

POLICY 1300

Board of Education Policy 3160, *School-Sponsored Activities*
Board of Education Policy 3530, *Safety and Security*

Board of Education Policy 6301, *School Calendar*
Board of Education Policy 8363, *Conflict of Interest*

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 09/18/68

Revised: 10/26/78

Edited: 02/26/81

Revised: 01/23/86

Revised: 05/20/08

Revised: 07/13/10

Revised: 08/09/11