

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 700 Property

TITLE: Use of School  
Facilities

ADOPTED: April 27, 1981

REVISED: October 25, 2018

## 707 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

### **Purpose**

The Board of Education recognizes that although the primary purpose of The School District of Philadelphia's school buildings, administrative buildings, athletic facilities, schoolyards, other facilities, and real property ("school facilities") is to provide students with appropriate educational and learning environments, the School District may allow individuals, community organizations and groups, and governmental entities to use school facilities in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws, and School District Policy, provided that the use does not interfere with the educational program of the schools. The term "community organizations or groups" may include religious organizations or groups.

### **Authority**

The Board directs that individuals, community organizations and groups, and governmental entities may use school facilities for the following types of activities, provided that a request to use school facilities is submitted to and approved by the School District before the commencement of the use and the School District is reimbursed for all activities in accordance with School District administrative procedures:

1. Instruction in any branch of education, learning and the arts, which is not part of the regular School District educational program and which is, consistent with the School District's mission.
2. Social, civic, recreational and religious meetings and entertainment, and other uses pertaining to the welfare of the community; provided that such use shall be non-exclusive and open to the public.
3. Polling places for holding primaries, elections and special elections, as permitted or required by state law.
4. Recreation, physical training and athletics, including competitive athletic contests for children and adults.

No school facility, including school buildings, offices, athletic fields, schoolyards (non parking event), etc., shall be used for any activity which is not part of the regular public school program without prior approval of the school district in accordance with Board policy and established

administrative procedures. Prior written approval must be obtained whether the activity is to take place during school hours, before school hours, after school hours, or non school days.[1]

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

The Superintendent or designee shall implement administrative procedures governing the use of school facilities, including a schedule of applicable charges to be paid by users of school district facilities to reimburse for the School District's cost related to the operation of the school facilities. The administrative procedures shall include the following:

1. Restrictions on the participation in or attendance at a program or event, or membership or leadership in the community group or organization on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, physical handicap or national origin.
2. Use of tobacco products.[2][3][4]
3. Possession, use or distribution of illegal controlled substances and/or alcoholic beverages.
4. Possession of weapons. A weapon is any device used with intent to inflict damage or harm to living creatures, structures, or systems.
5. Gambling, games of chance, lotteries, raffles or other activities requiring a license under the Local Option Small Games of Chance Act.[5][6]
6. Conduct that would constitute a violation of school district policy, local ordinances, the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, and/or state and federal laws and regulations.
7. Vandalism, disorderly conduct, or any other behavior that would alter, damage or be injurious to any district property, equipment or furnishings.[7]
8. Activities involving the use of equipment or materials which may be unsafe or may pose a danger to the user, other individuals, or school facilities.
9. Use of school facilities for political campaigning purposes. No candidate running for elected office shall be permitted to use School District property for the purpose of campaigning for elected office.
10. Use of school facilities by an outside individual or organization for non-educational purposes during instructional school time. Organizations operating outside of the School District will not be permitted to use school facilities during school hours without prior written approval from Office of Facilities.

The District reserves the right to terminate the use of and/or remove from the school facilities any individual, group or organization who fails to comply with the terms and conditions of Board policy and established procedures.

In the event that an individual, community group or organization, or governmental entity violates School District policy or the terms under which permission was granted to use school

facilities, that individual, community group or organization, or governmental entity shall be disqualified from future use of school facilities.

**Legal References:**

1. 24 P.S. 775
2. 35 P.S. 1223.5
3. 20 U.S.C. 7182
4. 20 U.S.C. 7183
5. 10 P.S. 328.101 et seq
6. 61 PA Code 901.701
7. 24 P.S. 777

**Related Information:**

- 24 P.S. 511
- 24 P.S. 696
- 24 P.S. 779
- 22 PA Code 403.1
- 61 PA Code 901.1
- 20 U.S.C. 7181 et seq
- 20 U.S.C. 7905
- Philadelphia Home Rule Charter - 12-300
- Philadelphia Code of Ordinances - Title 10, Sections 10-810, 10-816, 10-824, 10-825, 10-826, 10-833