

FORT MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT
K - SCHOOL-COMMUNITY-HOME RELATIONS
Policy KF Community Use of School Facilities

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Purpose: To establish the basic structure for community use of school facilities.

As a service to the community, the board will allow responsible and properly organized community groups or individuals to use school facilities in keeping with the following general policies:

- The board provides public school facilities through the use of taxpayers' funds collected for educational purposes.
- Use of school facilities by the schools and by school related organizations takes precedence over all other uses.
- Requests by local agencies and/or local organizations for the use of facilities for educational purposes take priority over requests from non-local agencies/organizations/groups for the use of facilities.
- Groups that are renting a school facility in excess of a month in a 12-month period must provide a written "exit strategy" including duration of rental agreement at which time such group will occupy a permanent structure not affiliated with the Fort Mill School District.
- The use of a school building, facility, or other school property for any non-school purpose must not interfere with the school program.
- Certain areas which house expensive and delicate equipment used in the instructional program may not be made available for use by non-school related groups.
- A political party or the state election commission may conduct a primary or election without charge in a school facility based upon availability as determined by the board.
- Some city, county, and state government entities may use some facilities without charge upon approval of the principal and superintendent.
- Organizations using school facilities are responsible for the proper conduct of all persons attending the event, for providing police protection if needed, for immediate restoration of school property in the event of any damage and for all liabilities of all persons in attendance. The district will set forth all terms in a contract which an official representative of the organization must sign.
- The administration will set up a schedule of fees which takes into consideration the purpose of the event. Fees will be sufficient to cover operational expenses and a reasonable amount for overhead (see schedule of rental rates).
- Non-profit local community organizations may use cafeterias, auditoriums, gymnasiums, stadiums, and play fields of the school district, provided they comply with regulations pertaining to public use of school facilities in keeping with board policies.
- When school facilities are used by non-school persons, a school employee must be present while the facility is in use. The employee's services will be paid for by the group using the facility, except when a primary or election is conducted in a school facility.
- Non-school groups wishing to use any school kitchen must have members of the kitchen staff from

that particular school present. Kitchen staff members will be paid for their services by the organization using the facility.

- The administration may establish detailed administrative rules pertaining to public use of school facilities in keeping with the above policies. However, the board will not allow groups to use school facilities if they advocate unconstitutional or illegal acts, or if their activities are contrary to the best interests of the public schools or to the educational welfare of its students.
- The board will not allow groups to use school facilities when the proposed function presents an obvious danger to the safety of persons and property.
- The board directs the administration to seek board approval prior to administrative action in any case of doubt.
- The possession or consumption of alcohol on any school premises is prohibited.
- The use of tobacco products on any district property is prohibited.
- Certificate of insurance will be required at time of request of school facilities, except for school associated organizations. Failure to comply will result in disapproval of this request.

Adopted 4/2/87; Revised 5/4/95, 6/21/99, 9/7/10, 1/21/14, 9/15/15

Legal references:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 7-9-110 - Conducting elections or primaries in a facility that receives state funds.

Section 59-1-370 - Closing of educational institutions on general Election Day.

Court cases:

Child Evangelism Fellowship of South Carolina v. Anderson School District Five, 470 F.3d 1062 (4th Cir. 2006).

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