

DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Darien, Connecticut

SERIES 1000: COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATION
POLICY 1200

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

A. Application Procedures

In accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-239, the Board of Education may permit the use of any school facility for non-profit educational or community purposes whether or not school is in session. The Board of Education may also grant the temporary use of any school facility for public, educational or other purposes, including the holding of political discussion, at such time the facility is not in use for school purposes. In addition, the Board shall grant such use for any purpose of voting under the provisions of Title 9 of the Connecticut General Statutes whether or not school is in session. In accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 7905, the Board of Education shall not deny equal access to or a fair opportunity to meet, or otherwise discriminate, against any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America (or any other youth group listed as a patriotic society in Title 36 of the United States Code) that wishes to conduct a meeting using school facilities pursuant to this policy. Such uses shall be governed by the following rules and procedures, and shall be subject to such restrictions as the Superintendent or his/her designee considers expedient.

Consistent with this policy, the Superintendent shall develop and promulgate Administrative Regulations and associated forms governing use of school buildings and facilities by community and other groups. Since the primary purpose of school facilities is for educational activities, such activities will have priority over all other requested uses.

Applications for the use of facilities related to athletics shall be submitted, in accordance with the Administrative Regulations, to the Director of Athletics at Darien High School, 80 High School Lane, Darien CT 06820. All other applications for the use of facilities should be submitted, in accordance with the Administrative Regulations, to the Director of Facilities, Board of Education Offices, 35 Leroy Avenue, Darien, CT 06820.

Groups requesting use of school buildings and facilities must identify the specific facilities desired, and approval will be for those specific facilities only. All school equipment on the premises shall remain in the charge and control of the building principal or responsible administrator, and shall not be used without the express written permission of the administrator.

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Copies of all applications shall be maintained in the Athletics Office or Facilities Office. Approval of school facilities usage may be revoked at any time by the Superintendent of his/her designee.

B. Eligible Organizations and Priority of Use

Administrators responsible for approving/disapproving requests for use of school district facilities will use the following guidelines regarding priority of usage of such facilities:

Order of priority:

1. School sponsored curricular programs and activities
2. School-sponsored extracurricular programs and activities
3. Activities of school-related organizations (e.g. PTO, Booster Clubs, After Graduation Committees, and similar organizations)
4. Town department or agency activities
5. Darien YMCA programs and activities, as per contractual arrangement with the Board of Education
6. Activities of non-profit organizations operating within the Town, other than school-related organizations covered by category #3 above
7. Activities of for-profit organizations operating within the Town
8. Out-of-Town organizations

NOTE: To be considered a Local Non-Profit or Local Youth Sports group, the following criteria apply:

- ***The group must have 501-C-3 certification***
- ***The group must be based in Darien***
- ***66% or more of the participants must be Darien residents***

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C. Restrictions on Use of School Facilities

The following restrictions shall apply to the use of school facilities:

1. Illegal activities will not be tolerated.
2. Use or possession of tobacco, alcoholic beverages or unauthorized controlled substances shall not be permitted on school property.
3. Refreshments may not be prepared, served or consumed without the prior approval of the responsible administrator. Notwithstanding, only those beverages permitted by state law may be sold during the school day. The responsible administrator may permit other beverages to be sold at the location of events occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend as long as they are not sold from a vending machine or at a school store. Upon approval by the administrator, refreshments may be prepared, served and consumed only in areas designated by the responsible administrator.
4. Obscene advertising, decorations or materials shall not be permitted on school property.
5. Advertising, decorations or other materials that promote the use of illegal drugs, tobacco products, or alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted.
6. Activities that are disruptive of the school environment are not permitted.

Any violation of this Policy or any applicable Administrative Regulations may result in permanent revocation of the privilege to use school facilities against the organization and/or individuals involved.

D. Fees and Other Costs

Users of school facilities shall be responsible for the fees and costs set out in a fee schedule established by the Superintendent with the approval of the Board of Education. The fee schedule, including associated costs, is reviewed annually and shall be available in the office of the Director of Finance and on the district's website.

“Associated costs” shall include, but shall not be limited to, fees for the services of any custodial personnel, food service personnel, security personnel or other personnel deemed by the responsible administrator to be necessary in connection with the use of a

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school district facility. Such costs shall be at the rates set forth in the fee schedule. Rental fees and/or associated costs otherwise applicable may be waived by the Superintendent or his/her designee if such waiver is deemed by the Superintendent or his/her designee to be in the best interest of the school system and/or the Town.

E. Responsibility for Damage to Property or Loss of Property

In order to use school district facilities, any organization or individual requesting such use must agree to assume responsibility for any damage to and/or theft or loss of any school district property arising out of the use of the facilities.

Legal References:

Connecticut General Statutes §10-239	Use of School Facilities for Other Purposes
Connecticut General Statutes 10-215f	Certification that food meets nutrition standards
Connecticut General Statutes §10-221q	Sale of beverages
Connecticut General Statutes Title 9	Elections
20 U.S.C. § 7905	Equal Access to Public School for the Boy Scouts of America
26 U.S.C § 101 et seq.	Patriotic and National Organizations

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON: September 19, 1999

REVISED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ON: February 24, 2015, (Effective July 1, 2015)

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SERIES 1000: COMMUNITY/BOARD OPERATION
POLICY R-1200

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES
(Administrative Regulations)

Application for Building Use

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Contact Person: _____ **Phone :** _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Activity to be conducted and location:

Note: Activities that are not considered "school-sponsored" shall be charged based on the attached fee schedule.

Date(s) Requested: _____ **Time: From** _____ **T** _____ **o** _____

The authorized agent for the organization above, and whose signature appears below, agrees that his/her organization will abide by the rules and regulations pertaining to the use of school facilities as prescribed by the Board of Education. The organization further agrees that any damage whatsoever to the building or any part thereof shall be repaired at the expense of the organization using the facilities.

Signatures:

Person Responsible for the

Board of Education

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Organization

Printed Name

Printed Name

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Use of School Facilities

The priority list for allocating use of school facilities shall be as follows:

1. School sponsored curricular programs and activities
2. School-sponsored extracurricular programs and activities
3. Activities of school-related organizations (e.g. PTO, Booster Clubs, After Graduation Committees, and similar organizations)
4. Town department or agency activities
5. Darien YMCA programs and activities, as per contractual arrangement with the Board of Education
6. Activities of non-profit organizations operating within the Town, other than School-related organizations covered by category #3 above
7. Activities of for-profit organizations operating within the Town
8. Out-of-Town organizations.

Facilities Available (please select facility desired)

School/Location: _____

- 1. Gymnasium
- 2. Auditorium
- 3. Kitchen / Cafeteria
- 4. Classrooms
- 5. School Grounds
- 6. Other – Discuss with the administrator/supervisor responsible for facilities use

**Services and/or
Equipment Needed:**

February 2015

Attachment: 2014-15 Facilities Usage Fee Schedule (Memorandum from Michael Feeney, Director of Finance and Operations, September 10, 2014). Includes Certificate of Liability Insurance Form.

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INDEMNIFICATION AND RELEASE

This form is valid for a period of one calendar year from the date signed for each application of usage which is made.

In consideration of the permission granted to it by the Board of Education to use the school building, grounds, facilities, and/or equipment, the undersigned, does hereby indemnify and hold harmless the Board of Education and the Town of Darien, their employees, agents, contractors and assigns against any and all loss or expense, including attorney's fees, court costs, damages, liability and any other amounts for any and all bodily injuries, including death, and/or for any and all property damage sustained accidentally or otherwise sustained by any person arising out of or connected with the undersigned's use of the school building, grounds, facilities, and/or equipment.

The undersigned further waives the right to initiate and/or pursue in any manner any and all lawsuits and any other claims in any forum against the Board of Education or the Town of Darien, its individual Board members, officers, employees, agents, contractors and assigns for any injury or harm connected to the undersigned's use of the Board's facilities, including but not limited to claims for negligent acts or omissions and/or claims for death and/or serious bodily injury and/or claims for property damage.

The undersigned assumes responsibility for any damage to and/or theft or loss of any school district property arising out of the use of the buildings, grounds, facilities, and/or equipment.

The undersigned has read and agrees to abide by the terms of the Board of Education policies pertaining to use of Board buildings, grounds, facilities, and/or equipment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand this _____ day of _____, 20__.

REVIEWED BY BOARD OF EDUCATION: February 24, 2015