

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 nonprofit 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. ***Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Superintendent may limit or restrict the use of school facilities by community and other groups based on the guidance of federal, state, and local health authorities and consistent with applicable law.***

Applications for use of facilities shall be submitted to the following individuals, in accordance with the Administrative Regulations:

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Application Submitted To</u>
For use of athletic fields and facilities	Town Parks & Recreation Department
For use of school buildings and other school facilities	Superintendent of Schools

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.

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 programs and activities.

2. Activities of school-related organizations (*e.g.* PTO, Booster Clubs, After Graduation Committees and similar organizations).
3. Town department or agency activities.
4. Activities of non-profit organizations operating within the Town, other than school-related organizations covered by category #2 above.
5. Activities of for-profit organizations operating within the Town.
6. Out-of-town organizations.

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 following guidelines shall be incorporated into such fee schedule:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Fee</u>
1. School-sponsored programs and activities.	No rental fee or associated costs.
2. Activities of school-related organizations (e.g. PTO, Booster Clubs, After Graduation Committees and similar organizations).	No rental fee or associated costs.
3. Town department or agency activities.	Associated costs.
4. Activities of non-profit organizations operating within the Town, other than school-related organizations covered by category #2 above.	Associated costs.
5. Activities of for-profit organizations operating within the Town.	Rental fee and associated costs.
6. Out-of-town organizations.	Rental fee and associated costs.

“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 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.

F. Health and Safety Protocols

In order to use school district facilities, any organization or individual requesting such use must agree to abide by all health and safety protocols in place by the school district at the time of use, including but not limited to protocols relating to cleaning of the facilities, signage, and health screenings of individuals requesting access to the facilities.

F. Conditions

1. Policemen and/or firemen must be employed by persons or organizations at all events when the use of school facilities is subject to the town ordinances on public gatherings; i.e., when more than one thousand (1,000) persons are assembled at one time for one (1) particular event. This shall be the responsibility of the persons or group using the facilities, except for school-sponsored activities where it shall be the responsibility of the Board of Education.

2. Police coverage may be required by the Board of Education when more than 300 persons are assembled at one time for one (1) particular event. However, the Board of Education (or appropriate school administrator[s]) reserve(s) the right to insist that organizations which rent school facilities secure the services of Rocky Hill policemen and/or firemen during events taking place at school facilities when, in its/their judgment, such coverage is prudent.
3. An employee of the facilities staff shall be in the building at all times to insure security with the following exceptions: whenever more than one large area in the building is being used at one time (such as a gymnasium, auditorium, hallway, cafeteria, etc.), the Superintendent of Schools or his designated representative will determine the number of employees of the facilities staff necessary to be in attendance for proper security. Such employees will also perform the following functions:
 - a. Assist persons or groups using facilities in the arrangement of furniture and other equipment to be used at the end of the activity.
 - b. Secure the building at the conclusion of the activity.
 - c. Care for any type of housekeeping function so that the building will be in readiness for the next day of operation.
 - d. Provide any other specific requirements deemed necessary for the particular activity.

Applicants Responsibilities

The application for use of school facilities will bind the individual sponsor to be responsible for:

1. Proper conduct of participants and/or guests.
2. Protection and reasonable maintenance of public property.
3. Return of all equipment or furniture to its proper place.
4. Replacement or repair of any damaged equipment, fixtures, or furniture.
5. Payment of bill within fifteen (15) days of billing.
6. Adherence to local and state ordinances and state and local fire regulations, as applicable.
7. Providing a proper certificate of insurance.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-239
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-215f
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221q
Conn. Gen. Stat. Title 9

Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. § 7905
Patriotic and National Organizations, 36 U.S.C § 10101 et seq.

***“Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together,”
Connecticut State Department of Education (June 29, 2020), available at
<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/CTReopeningSchools.pdf>***