

ABINGTON HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy: 700
Section: Property
Title: Use of Building

Purpose: School facilities of this District should be made available for community purposes, provided that such use does not interfere with the educational activities and programs of the school district.

- Policy:
1. First Amendment. Individuals and groups using and seeking to use school facilities have certain rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Under the First Amendment, with some exceptions, the school district may not prohibit use of school facilities solely on the basis of the content or viewpoint of the speech or expressive activities of the user. Therefore, the school district's approval of any request to use school facilities is not and shall not be construed to be an endorsement of the individual or group or message conveyed by the individual or group. The school district shall post in each school facility a notice that the school district's grant of permission to use school facilities by an individual or group is not and shall not be construed as an endorsement of the individual or the group, or of the message conveyed by the individual or group.
 2. Free Speech. Except as stated hereinafter, decisions by the school district under this policy shall not be made in consideration of the content or viewpoint of the speech or expressive content of the individuals or groups seeking to use school district facilities. However, in view of the mission of the school district, the school district prohibits expressive conduct that:
 - a. Is obscene or pornographic.
 - b. Is libelous.
 - c. Is indecent or vulgar.
 - d. Invades the privacy of another person in violation of the other's legal rights.
 - e. Constitutes fighting words.
 - f. Materially and substantially interferes with the educational process or the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school district.
 3. Facilities. The school facilities permitted to be used by school-related organizations rent-free are limited to the following:
 - a. Auditoriums
 - b. Classrooms
 - c. Gymnasiums
 - d. Other designate spaces with administration approval.

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4. License forms. School-related organizations shall be granted a license in the form of the license agreement attached hereto whenever they are permitted use of a facility rent-free under this policy. In the event that this policy requires the payment of rent for use of a facility, the contract attached to this policy shall be used. The group shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the license or contract, as may be applicable.
5. Individuals and Organizations
 - a. The school district permits its facilities to be used by individuals or organizations when not otherwise in use.
 - b. Any individual or organization desiring to use school facilities must apply for the use and, if the application is approved, enter into a contract with the school district setting forth the terms and conditions of such use. All rent and fees must be paid at the time the application is submitted for consideration.
 - c. The rate schedules for individual and organizations will be established and periodically updated by the Abington Heights School District Board and Administration.
 - d. Contract form. The contract to be used shall be as attached.

Adopted: April 18, 2007

Revised: _____