



COMMUNITY RELATIONS:

Use of School Facilities

I. General

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) encourages the use of school facilities for community purposes when such use does not interfere with the scheduled school program. The use of buildings and grounds for cultural, civic, educational, recreational, and charitable purposes is a long-standing practice. The Board is committed to the concept of joint utilization of facilities. This has been demonstrated by sharing facilities with the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks and other agencies.
- B. It is the primary responsibility of the Board to operate schools in such a manner as to provide the optimum learning environment. Any commitment to joint utilization shall not impinge on the commitment to provide educational opportunities as economically and efficiently as possible. Under no circumstances should the use of school facilities for community purposes be viewed as a mechanism for keeping a school open.
- C. Organizations desiring to use school facilities shall request an "Application for Use of School Facilities" form from the principal of the school involved. Administrative rules and a statement of costs related to the use of buildings or grounds shall be attached to the application form. The Board reserves the right to revoke any permit which has been issued, to a group or agency; this includes programs where the use of the facility interferes with the Department of Physical Facilities' projects. Permission for the use of a facility and/or grounds may be immediately revoked if an urgent need for use of a facility and/or grounds for school activities or educational purposes arise, or for a violation of operating rules and procedures.

II. Gambling

Gambling, raffles, Bingo, and all other games of chance on Board property or in connection with school projects are prohibited.

III. Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

The use, sale, or possession of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs on Board property or in connection with school projects is prohibited.

IV. Tobacco

The Board prohibits the sale and use of any form of tobacco in and/or on school system owned or leased property and grounds at all times.

V. Obscene and Abusive Language

The use of obscene and/or abusive language on Board property or in connection with school projects is prohibited.

VI. Exceptions to Use of Facilities

The Board may refuse the use of any facility and/or grounds if the Office of Operations determines that this use is likely to provoke or add to a public disturbance.

Legal References: *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Education Article §7-108
Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article §7-110
COMAR 13A.02.04

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 9/18/68
Revised: 10/26/78
Edited: 2/26/81
Revised: 1/23/86
Revised: 5/20/08