



## COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Use of School Facilities

Use of School Facilities

## I. Philosophy

- A. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) recognizes that school facilities are an essential component of the communities which they serve and encourages the use of school facilities for community purposes. The use of school facilities for cultural, civic, educational, recreational and charitable purposes is a long-standing practice. The use of school facilities should only be prohibited when such use interferes with the efficient administration of the educational program and/or may reasonably be anticipated to cause damage to school facilities.
- B. The Board is further committed to the concept of joint utilization of school facilities. This has been demonstrated by sharing school facilities with the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks and other agencies.

## II. Definition

*School Facilities* – Buildings, grounds, fixtures or equipment, as approved for use.

## III Guidelines

- A. It is the primary responsibility of the Board to operate schools in such a manner as to provide the optimum learning environment. It is essential that school facilities be utilized in a manner to ensure that such school facilities are not unduly damaged. Any commitment to joint utilization shall not impinge on the commitment to provide educational opportunities as economically and efficiently as possible.
- B. Under no circumstances should the use of school facilities for community purposes be viewed as a mechanism for keeping a school open.
- C. Groups or organizations desiring to use school facilities shall complete an *Application for Use of School Facilities* form.

- D. The Board grants to the Superintendent the authority to approve, reject or revoke any *Application for Use of School Facilities* if:
1. It is deemed that the school facilities are overused or under construction;
  2. The activity or event may adversely impact the current or future use of the school facilities;
  3. The proposed activity interferes with Department of Physical Facilities' projects;
  4. The school facilities are required for school activities or educational purposes; or
  5. The group or organization using the school facilities violates any Board policy, Superintendent's rule, or any rules and regulations concerning the use of school facilities.

#### IV. Implementation

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement this policy.

Legal References: *Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-108, Use of School Property for Other than School Purposes – In General*  
*Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-109, Use of School Property for Other than School Purposes – Priority for Day Care Program*  
*Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article, §7-110, Use of School Property for Other than School Purposes – Charges for Use and Liability for Damages*  
COMAR 13A.02.04, *Tobacco-free School Environment Authority*

Related Policies: Board of Education Policy 1210, *Relationship with Parent-Teacher (Student) Associations*  
Board of Education Policy 2361, *Distribution of Non-School Materials*  
Board of Education Policy 2372, *Tobacco-Free and Smoke-Free School Environment*  
Board of Education Policy 3530, *Safety and Security*  
Board of Education Policy 6301, *School Calendar*  
Board of Education Policy 6303, *Emergency Closures, Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal of Schools and/or Offices*  
Board of Education Policy 8340, *Appeal Before the Board of Education*

Board of Education Policy 8363, *Conflict of Interest–Prohibited Conduct*

Related Rule: Superintendent’s Rule 6303, *Emergency Closures, Delayed Opening and Early Dismissal of Schools and/or Offices*

Policy

Board of Education of Baltimore County

Adopted: 09/18/68

Revised: 10/26/78

Edited: 02/26/81

Revised: 01/23/86

Revised: 05/20/08

Revised: 07/13/10

Revised: 08/09/11

Revised: 09/13/16