

SCHOOL-COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Series 900

POLICY TITLE COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT No. 905.1

Community Use of School District Facilities

School district facilities and equipment will be made available to local nonprofit entities which promote cultural, educational, civic, community, or recreational activities. "Entity(ies)" will include organizations, groups and individuals and their agents. Any district employee using district-owned property or facilities for a use outside their duties as an employee is doing so as a community member, and not as a district employee. Prior to using district resources for activities outside the scope of their job duties, employees must meet the requirements to be considered a qualifying entity. Such use will be permitted only when the use does not interfere with or disrupt the education program or a school-related activity, and the use is consistent with state law. It is within the discretion of the board to allow for-profit entities to use school district facilities and equipment. The board reserves the right to deny use of the facilities and equipment to an entity.

The Johnston Community School District schools are owned, maintained, and supported by the public. The Board of Education actively seeks to respond to the educational, recreational and cultural needs of its total community through the total resources of the community schools. However, all school facilities have been primarily erected and maintained for the use of the students of Johnston Schools and shall not be used for another purpose that will conflict with that use.

1. Any activity connected with approved school programs will take precedence over any request for use of the facilities for any other purpose.
2. It is understood that the District will make its facilities available for use by certain local, social, civic, or service organizations when use does not conflict with the school program. Such use shall be for community purposes or the promotion of community activities and shall be of educational, recreational, or cultural value to the community. The District will typically not allow extended usage of facility that utilizes an entire facility.
3. This policy is not intended to create a limited open forum pursuant to the Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §4071-74. All student-initiated groups that wish to meet on District property during non-instructional time must be approved by the district, and the subject of the group related to the curriculum of the District.
4. All users of District facilities must comply with all federal, state and municipal equal opportunity laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination. All users of District facilities must comply with Board Policies, Facility Use guidelines, and Group Representative Responsibilities agreement.
5. Approval of a request does not imply the endorsement or sponsorship by the Administration, the Board of Education or the Johnston Community School District.

Groups interested in using school facilities must make such arrangements at the Community

Education office, which will follow established scheduling procedures.

The administration will develop and execute appropriate administrative guidelines, classification of users and regulations for use for the maximum use of school facilities and to ensure a fully coordinated effort between the K12 program and community use of the facilities.

The Director of Community Education will prepare the community use of school facilities manual that will be presented to the Board of Education for approval when changes are recommended.

Community Use of School District Equipment

Equipment of the school district shall not be loaned to any person or group for use off district property. When any equipment is to be used at school site or in a school building appropriate school personnel shall operate or supervise the use. Where a cost is involved, it shall be paid by the organization using the equipment.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 8D; 123.46; 276; 278.1(4); 279.8; 297.9-.11
1982 Op. Att'y Gen. 561.
1940 Op. Att'y Gen. 232.
1936 Op. Att'y Gen. 196.

Cross Reference: 704 Revenue

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