

Policy KF Community Use of School Facilities

Issued 4/17

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for community use of school facilities.

As a service to the community, the board will allow responsible and properly organized community groups to use school facilities in keeping with the following general policies:

- The board provides public school facilities through the use of taxpayers' funds collected for educational purposes.
- Use of school facilities by the schools and by school related organizations takes precedence over all other uses.
- Requests by local agencies and by other agencies/organizations for the use of facilities for educational purposes take priority over other requests for the use of facilities.
- The use of a school building, facility, or other school property for any non-school purpose must not interfere with the school program.
- Organizations using school facilities are responsible for the proper conduct of all persons attending the event, for providing police protection if needed, for immediate restoration of school property in the event of any damage and for all liabilities of all persons in attendance. The district will set forth all terms in a contract that an official representative of the organization must sign.
- Each principal exercises control of his/her school property. School rentals must be charged in occurrence with school and district rental schedules. The principal will charge appropriate rental fees for all nonschool events except for elections as stated below and unless waived by the area advisory councils
 - District portion of rental fees cannot be waived
 - All funds in excess of district rental fees, actual labor costs, or necessary cleaning supplies will be retained in the school rental accounts.
 - Where space permits without disruption of normal school activities, the schools may be used without charge for local, state, and national elections including primaries.
- When school facilities are used by non-school persons, a school employee must be present while the facility is in use. Rental fees will be used by the district to pay for the school employee's services.
- Non-school groups wishing to use any school kitchen must have members of the school food service staff present. Rental fees will be used by the district to pay for the school food service employee's services.
- The board will not allow groups to use school facilities if they advocate unconstitutional or illegal acts, or if their activities are contrary to the best interests of the public schools or to the educational welfare of its students.
- The board will not allow groups to use school facilities when the proposed function presents an obvious danger to the safety of persons and property.
- No alcoholic drinks will be sold, distributed, or used on school property at any time by anyone.
- If property is not needed for school purposes, the district may permit the operation of a school-age childcare program for children aged five through 14 years that operates before or after the school day, or both, and during periods when school is not in session. Under this section the board may enter into a long-term lease with a corporation, community service organization, or other governmental entity if the organization, corporation, or other governmental entity will use the property to be leased for civic or public purposes or for a school-age childcare program. However, if the property subject to a long-term lease is being paid for from money in the district's debt service fund, then all proceeds from the long-term lease must be deposited in that school's debt service fund so long as the property has not been paid for.

Adopted 11/9/71; Revised 6/10/75, 8/10/76, 3/24/87, 8/11/92, 1/26/93, 2/26/02, 2/7/12, 4/18/17

Legal references:

S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

[Section 7-9](#)-110 - Conducting elections or primaries in a facility that receives state funds.

[Section 59-1](#)-370 - Closing of educational institutions on general election day.

[Section 59-19](#)-90(7) - General powers and duties of school trustees.

[Section 59-19](#)-120 - Rules and regulations governing use of school buildings.

[Section 59-19](#)-125 - Leasing school property for particular purposes.

Federal Cases:

Child Evangelism Fellowship of South Carolina v. Anderson School District Five, 470 F.3d 1062 (4th Cir. 2006).

Aiken County Public Schools