

## **COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES**

The Board of Trustees of Sweetwater County School District Number One, State of Wyoming believes the primary use of school buildings, facilities, and equipment should be reserved for the educational mission of the District. However, the Board is committed to the community-school concept and permits District residents to use school buildings, facilities, and equipment for community activities provided that such use does not interfere with the educational programs of the District.

The District shall, within the needs of the community and in cooperation with other governmental entities, permit the use of school facilities to:

1. Provide leadership and assist in the planning and development of community activities.
2. Cooperate with other governmental entities that have responsibilities for community programs and facilities.
3. Provide adequate facilities for community activities.

After making required arrangements, including the payment of any rental fees or other costs, District residents may receive permission for the use of the school facilities from the Superintendent of Schools or his designee(s). The Board reserves the right to refuse approval or to cancel any or all authorizations for use of school facilities when it deems that such action is in the best interests of the District.

Generally, school facilities may be used by District residents, provided that:

1. Use of the facilities does not interfere with instructional time or scheduled school activities.
2. School personnel, as deemed necessary by the Superintendent or his designee(s), are present during the period of use of the facility.

No school facilities shall be used for any purpose prohibited by federal or state law. Except as stated in this policy, decisions by the 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 facilities. However, in view of the mission of the District, the District prohibits expressive conduct that:

1. Is obscene or pornographic.
2. Is libelous.
3. Is indecent or vulgar.
4. Invades the privacy of another person or is otherwise in violation of the other's legal rights.
5. Constitutes fighting words.
6. Materially and substantially interferes with the educational process or the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the schools.

In addition, no alcoholic or malt beverages, controlled substances, or weapons of any kind shall be allowed on District premises. There is no tobacco use permitted on District premises. Activities involving gambling, as defined and regulated under federal or state law, are not permitted on District premises.

Individuals and groups using and seeking to use school facilities have certain rights under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. With some exceptions, the District cannot prohibit use of school facilities solely on the content or viewpoint of the speech or expressive activity of the user. Therefore, the District's approval of any request for the use of school facilities is not, and shall not be, construed to be an endorsement of the individual or group or the message conveyed by the individual or group.

Annually, or more frequently if necessary due to cost changes, the Superintendent shall recommend to the Board rental fees for the use of buildings, facilities, or equipment of the District. Other related costs, including the costs of supervisory or custodial services necessary, shall also be reviewed and determined. The rental fees and other costs shall be scheduled such that all costs to the District from facilities use by the community are fully recovered. The costs charged for District personnel services shall be based upon the hours of service required, as determined by the District, and the rate of pay of the employee, including benefits such as: Wyoming Retirement System contribution, FICA, and Workers' Compensation charges. The Board, or by designation the Superintendent, may waive or reduce such rental fees and other costs on a prior approval basis when facilities are used exclusively for recreational or sporting activities involving the students of the District. The District may enter into memoranda of agreement with other governmental entities to govern facilities use by such entities.

Any individual, organization, or entity using school facilities under this policy agrees to hold the District, the Board, the Superintendent and agents, officers, and employees of the District harmless from any claims for loss, damage, liability, injury, or death arising from the use of the facilities. Any individual, organization, or entity using school facilities under this policy agrees to defend and indemnify the District from any claims for loss, damage, liability, injury, or death arising from the use of the facilities. Individuals, organizations, or entities may be required to provide proof of insurance satisfactory to the District. The District also reserves the right to require a surety bond or deposit for rental and costs.

Adopted 05/24/76  
Revised 12/14/92; 4/23/01; 08/23/04; 07/17/13

CROSS REF.: JN – R Debt Collection Guidelines, Procedures, and Standards

School District #1, Sweetwater County, Wyoming