

7510 USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The district facilities belong to the community, which paid for them for the primary purpose of offering a full educational program for its children. Prudent use and management of school facilities outside of the regular operating schedules - providing that such use does not interfere with the orderly conduct of a thorough and efficient system of education - allows the community to benefit more broadly from the use of its own property. For the purpose of this policy, "school facilities" also includes school grounds.

The Ridgewood Board of Education will permit the use of school facilities when such permission has been requested in writing and has been approved by the Business Administrator for:

1. Uses and groups directly related to the school and the operations of the school;
2. Uses and organizations indirectly related to the school;
3. Departments or agencies of the municipal government;
4. Other governmental agencies; and
5. Community organizations formed for charitable, civic, or educational purposes.

The use of school facilities shall not be granted for partisan political purposes or any purpose which is prohibited by law. Use for partisan political purposes means use which is exclusive, by invitation or actual participation, in a meeting or other gathering primarily to members of a political party, or primarily to members or adherents of a group which advocates an ideology to address social or political concerns. Nothing contained in this definition shall be interpreted to restrict the use of a facility by a public official in the execution of the duties and responsibilities of that person's office, or any activities incident to such execution. Also, nothing contained in this definition shall be interpreted to restrict the use of a facility for any curriculum purpose deemed appropriate for instruction of the Ridgewood schools pupils.

In the event the Superintendent deems it advisable, any application may be submitted to the Board for action.

The Superintendent, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, or the Board may refuse to grant the use of a school building whenever, in their judgment, there is good reason why permission should be refused. They shall not be required to give a reason for such refusal.

No one may bring alcoholic beverages onto any school property. All facility use shall comply with State and local fire, health, safety, and police regulations.

POLICY

RIDGEWOOD BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROPERTY
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Use of School Facilities

The buildings shall not be available for community use during holidays, vacation periods, or during the time school is not in session over the summer when the programs interfere with cleaning and maintenance schedules unless approved by the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

Use of school equipment in conjunction with the use of school facilities must be specifically requested in writing and may be granted by the procedure by which permission to use facilities is granted. The user of school equipment must accept liability for any damage to or loss of such equipment that occurs while it is in use. Where rules so specify, no item of equipment may be used except by a qualified operator. No district equipment shall be removed from the premises for use by non-district personnel.

The Board shall require that all users of school facilities comply with policies of this Board and rules and regulations of this district. Each user shall present evidence of the purchase of organizational liability insurance to the limit prescribed by such rules. The users of school equipment must accept liability for any damage or loss to such equipment that occurs while it is in their use, regardless of any assignment of negligence.

Authorization for use of school facilities shall not be considered as endorsement of or approval of the activity, person, group, or organization nor the purposes they represent.

The Board shall provide to all persons who supervise youth programs that are not sponsored by the school district, but operate a program in a district building before or after school hours, on the weekend, or during a period when school is not in session, information on the district's school practices and procedures in the event of a school safety or security incident at a school including non-confidential information on evacuation procedures, emergency response protocols, and emergency contact information in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:41-7.

Recreation sports organizations that use the facilities must provide a Statement of Compliance with the Ridgewood Board of Education's policy(ies) for management of concussions and other head injuries, including Policy No. 2431.4, and shall represent all of its coaches (head and assistant coaches) have received a copy of such policy(ies) and have successfully completed a course in concussion awareness, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's "Heads-Up: Concussion in Youth Sports" or the National Federation of State High School Association's "Concussion in Sports: What You Need to Know." The organizations shall provide copies of the coaches' certificates of completion of the appropriate concussion awareness course(s) upon request.

N.J.S.A. 18A:20-20; 18A:20-34; 18A:41-7

Adopted: 7 December 2009
Revised: 21 May 2012
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