

Community Use of School Facilities

The public schools are owned by and operated for their patrons. District residents and members of the general public are encouraged to use school facilities, but shall reimburse the District for such use to insure that funds intended for education are not used for other purposes.

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures for the use of school facilities, including priority and preference for use, rental rates, supervisory requirements, restrictions, security, and other matters pertinent to community use. The superintendent or their designee possesses the authority to make the decision on the use of school facilities by a group. The group may appeal such decision to the board.

For non-school related activities, in addition to rental fees, all persons/organizations using the facilities will be required to furnish a certificate of insurance with at least \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) general liability coverage naming Richland School District as an additional insured and stating that they agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Richland School District from and against all losses associated with the use of the school's facilities. In addition, the certificate should provide for a thirty-day notice of cancellation or material changes in the coverages. The superintendent or their designee possesses the authority to waive the fees associated with the use of school facilities.

The community use of school buildings shall be based on the following principles:

- A. The school buildings were built specifically for use in the normal educational program for school-age children. Any other use of school facilities should be subordinate.
- B. Subject to the prior rights of use and occupancy by the school educational program, the school facilities shall be available for use by citizens in accordance with such rules, regulations, and rental schedules as will best protect the interests of the District.
- C. Authorization for use of school facilities shall not be considered as endorsement of or approval of the activity group or organization, nor for the purposes it represents.
- D. The District reserves the right to deny use of school facilities to any applicant when, in the judgment of the superintendent or designee, the intended use, or the principles, philosophy, or background of the applicant organization would be detrimental to the best interests of the District and its educational program.
- E. Citizen users will be financially responsible for damage to facilities and/or equipment. The applicant shall be responsible for all supervision of youth participants and shall have adult staff on site whenever youth are present.

Legal Reference: AGO 1973 No. 26

Initiative No. 276--School districts--Use of school facilities for presentation of programs--Legislature—Elections

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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RCW 28A.335.150

Permitting use and rental of playgrounds,  
athletic fields, or athletic facilitations

28A.335.155

Use of buildings for youth programs –  
Limited immunity.

28A.320.510

Use of facilities for night schools, summer  
schools, or meetings.

RSD No. 400

Adopted: June 10, 1986

Revised: April 9, 2002

Revised: December 14, 2010