

# POLICY

## AVON BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Use of School Facilities

### 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 and co-curricular programs of the schools district, 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 Avon Board of Education will permit the use of school facilities when such permission has been requested in writing and has been approved by the chief school administrator. The Board reserves the right to withdraw permission after it has been granted in the event circumstances change requiring such school facilities or school grounds will be needed for a school district purpose or due to a school closing due to weather or other emergency.

In weighing competing requests for the use of school facilities, the Board will give priority to the following uses, in the descending order given:

- a. Uses and groups directly related to the school and the operations of the school;
- b. Uses and organizations indirectly related to the school, including the Home and School Association and other school-parent related organizations;
- c. Departments or agencies of the municipal government;
- d. Other governmental agencies;
- e. Community organizations formed for charitable, civic, or educational purposes;
- f. Private Groups or Organizations.

The use of school facilities will not be granted for the advantage of any commercial or profit-making organization, private social functions, or any purpose that is prohibited by law.

The Avon School District will charge a fee to cover maintenance and facility expenses.

In the event the chief school administrator deems it advisable, any application may be submitted to the Board of Education for action.

The chief school administrator or Board of Education may refuse to grant the use of the 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.

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Smoking is prohibited at all times in any district building. 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.

The building 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.

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 users of school equipment must accept liability for any damage or loss of such equipment that occurs while it is in their use. Where rules so specify, certain items of equipment may only be used by a qualified operator approved by the school district administration.

Use of district equipment on the premises by nonschool personnel is limited to the equipment that is an integral part of the facility being used. No district equipment shall be removed from the premises for use by nondistrict personnel.

The Board shall require that all users of school facilities comply with policies of this Board and the rules and regulations of this district. Each user shall present evidence of the purchase of organizational liability insurance to the limit as prescribed by district regulations. Each user shall inspect any facility or school grounds to be used prior to such use and shall notify a district representative of any existing safety or dangerous conditions. In the event such conditions exist, the district may cancel or modify the user's access to the school facility until such conditions are addressed. Users shall be financially liable for damage to the facilities and for proper chaperonage as required by the school district administration.

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

The Board shall approve annually a schedule of fees for the use of school facilities based upon the following guidelines:

1. The use of school facilities for activities directly related to the educational program and district operations and use by Class I organizations.
2. The use of school facilities by Class II users shall be without cost to the user except that the user shall be responsible for any custodial costs incurred by the use and any fees charged by a law enforcement agency in connection with the use.
3. All other organizations or persons granted the use of school shall pay in advance the scheduled fee and the cost of any additional staff services required by the use.

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The school district shall provide a copy of Policy and Regulation 2431.4 – Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries to all youth sports team organizations that operate on school grounds or in school facilities. In accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.5, the school district shall not be liable for the injury or death of a person due to the action or inaction of persons employed by, or under contract with, a youth sports team organization that uses school facilities or operates on school grounds if the youth sports team organization provides the school district proof of an insurance policy in the amount of not less than \$50,000 per person, per occurrence; insuring the youth sports team organization against liability for any bodily injury suffered by a person. The youth sports team organization must also provide a statement of compliance with the school district’s Policy and Regulation 2431.4 - Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries.

For the purpose of this Policy, a “youth sports team organization” means one or more sports teams organized pursuant to a nonprofit or similar charter or which are member teams in a league organized by or affiliated with a county or municipal recreation department.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the use of school facilities; such regulations shall be distributed to every user of the facilities and every applicant for the use of school facilities. Permission to use school facilities shall be granted only to persons and organizations that agree to the terms of Policy and Regulation 7510, the requirements as outlined in the use of school facilities application, and in accordance with the terms outlined in the approval.

Adopted: 21 September 2005  
Revised: 25 April 2012