

Thetford Town School District

CODE E20 Community Use of School Facilities (Recommended)

Date Warned: 04-13-21

Date Adopted: 06-29-21

Date Revised:

Date Reviewed:

NOTE: Any School District permitting outside organizations or persons to use school facilities does so with the understanding that it may not restrict that use based on the nature and/or viewpoints of the requesting organization or persons. VSBA encourages Districts to consult with legal counsel to better understand their rights and obligations under this policy before adopting it.

Policy:

While the primary purpose of the school facilities is to educate students within this district, the school board recognizes that the facilities are a valuable community resource. Accordingly, the Superintendent may make school facilities available to individuals and community group without discrimination in accordance with this policy, provided the facilities are preserved for regular school activities.

Individuals and groups may use school facilities for the following purposes:

- A. Meetings by parent-teacher organizations and school booster organizations whose purpose is to support the operations of the schools and the school district;
- B. Meetings by employees' professional organizations comprised of school district employees;
- C. Instruction in any branch of education, learning, and the arts;
- D. Social, civic and recreational meetings, and entertainment, provided the events are open to the public;
- E. Civic forums and community centers, provided the events are open to the public;
- F. Recreation, physical training and athletics, including competitive athletic contests for children and adults;
- G. Private academic tutoring or music lessons;
- H. Child care programs;
- I. Meetings, entertainment and occasions where admission fees are charged, when the proceeds are to be spent for an educational or charitable purpose, and the events are open to the public.

The superintendent may deny an application for use of facilities or terminate an individual or group's use for:

- A. Uses that are likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to school operations;
- B. Events and meetings promoting or sponsored by a political party;
- C. Political campaign events by someone running for office;
- D. Uses that interfere with school district maintenance and repair of facilities;
- E. Uses that could damage special equipment in the facilities;
- F. Uses that could reasonably be expected to or actually do give rise to a riot or public disturbance;
- G. Events or meetings of private for-profit entities;
- H. Events at which fees are charged for profit;

- I. Uses where alcoholic beverages or unlawful drugs are sold, distributed, consumed, promoted or possessed; and
- J. Uses prohibited by law.

Youth organizations that do not discriminate may use school facilities upon payment of suitable fees and costs according to the district fee schedule.

The superintendent may place reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions on the use of facilities.

The superintendent shall set a fee schedule and shall administer it in a manner that does not discriminate based on viewpoint. All users shall be required to demonstrate adequate insurance coverage and shall agree to hold the district harmless from any and all liability resulting from their use of the facilities. All users shall be required to make clear in all announcements and publicity that their events and activities are not sponsored by the school district.

The superintendent may allow individuals and groups to use special equipment, such as audiovisual equipment, provided that the group uses an operator of the equipment who is approved by the superintendent.