

## USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND GROUNDS

**Date of Adoption:** May 13, 2004

The Board, as trustees of the public and their interests in the education of their children and the use of properties by them, holds that the philosophy and goals of this school district as developed by the community shall apply in this policy regarding use of school facilities, athletic fields and grounds. The Board feels the spirit and intent of the educational philosophy shall apply so that no child shall be denied consideration on the basis of his/her race, age, creed, color or religious beliefs. If the Board feels the spirit and intent of this policy is being abused, they will deny the privilege of the use of district facilities, athletic fields and grounds. The residents of the district are a total community made up of diverse groups working toward common goals. One of these goals is respect and understanding of individual rights, needs and beliefs. The Board shall require that all uses of school property comply with this policy of nondiscrimination and all other policies rules and regulations of this district.

The Board believes that the school facilities, athletic fields and grounds of this district may be made available for community purposes, provided that such use does not interfere with the educational program of the schools.

The Board may authorize the use of school facilities, athletic fields and grounds when such permission has been requested in writing and a permit has been issued by the Board of Education. The Board considers the use of its facilities, athletic fields and grounds to be a privilege and not a right. If the privilege is abused or the rules violated, the privilege can be denied or revoked.

The Board of Education may deny a permit to any group or organization which has less than 50% of its members as residents of Scotch Plains and/or Fanwood. Approval for the use of school facilities, athletic fields and grounds shall be granted in the following priority order:

1. School sponsored groups
2. Users and organizations whose activities are directly related to the schools, including such groups as PTA and Booster Clubs
3. Departments or agencies of municipal governments, including the Recreation Commission
4. District related athletic camps
5. Other community organizations.

Requests for approval of activities shall be in accordance with a seasonal schedule.

All decisions regarding resolution of conflicts shall be the responsibility of the Business Administrator in conjunction with the appropriate building principal and/or Athletic Director when determining seasonal facilities, athletic field and grounds scheduling.

School facilities may be utilized only when a custodian with a boiler license is on duty. Therefore, school buildings may only be used by athletic teams and other organizations during school holidays if this coincides with the calendar utilized by 12-month employees. Charges will be necessary for those hours requiring custodial coverage not provided as part of the normal work schedule. If admission is charged for the event, the rental fee schedule shall be paid.

The Board carries insurance covering its legal liability. The Board requires that the user complete the hold harmless portion of the application and file a certificate of insurance, naming the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education as an additional insured. The minimum amount of insurance coverage will be \$500,000 per person for bodily injury, \$1,000,000 per accident for bodily injury and \$50,000 per accident for property damage.

Use of school equipment, in conjunction with the use of school facilities, athletic fields and grounds, must be specifically requested in writing and may be granted when the use of facilities is granted. The user of school equipment must accept liability for any damage to or loss of such equipment while it is in his/her use. Where rules so specify, no item or equipment may be used, except by a qualified operator.

The Board shall approve a schedule of fees for the use of school facilities, athletic fields and grounds.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

**Supersedes Policy 1330 dated August 15, 2002.**