

Community Relations

Use of School Facilities

Philosophy

The Board of Education believes the schools belong to the people of Putnam. The Board accepts the responsibility for making its facilities available to responsible organizations, associations, and individuals of the community for appropriate civic, cultural, welfare or recreational activities. The Superintendent of Schools or designee shall have the authority to deny the use of school facilities for such activities that are judged inappropriate to take place in a school setting. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish the fees schedule for use of facilities each year.

Types of Activities not to be Permitted

1. Activities advocating the overthrow of the United States or the state of Connecticut, or of local governmental agencies.
2. Any purpose in conflict with school activities.
3. Commercial advertising.
4. Fund-raising campaigns except as permitted by Board of Education policy or by special action of the Board of Education.
5. Activities which are discriminatory in nature or promotes discrimination or other illegal activity.

Conditions Applicable to All Groups

1. Use of the facilities is not to interfere with the school program.
2. Use of the facilities must be within the hours of regular custodial service. Nonpaying groups-only.
3. Use of facilities by nonpaying groups will not create unreasonable additional supervisory or custodial requirements. These groups may be required to provide and/or pay for supervisory coverage.

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Conditions Applicable to All Groups (continued)

4. Organizations will provide sufficient supervision to restrict use to permitted areas. If required, all groups will set up and reset the facilities for school use.
5. Organizations will provide a Certificate of Insurance to free the Town of Putnam and the Board of Education from all liability.
6. Requested use of a school facility is for a period not to exceed one year. Users may reapply annually.
7. Project Adventure equipment may be available for use by outside groups.
8. Fitness equipment at all schools is not available for use by outside groups.
9. A copy of the Use of School Facilities regulation will be provided to groups using school facilities.

Priority for Use of a School Facility shall be given in the following order:

1. School functions
2. School affiliated functions
3. Official bodies and agencies of Putnam
4. Town-based recognized national groups primarily interested in serving children under the age of twenty-one (21), such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and Little League Baseball.
5. Other town-based social, civic, educational and religious groups which have concern for the welfare of children and adults in the community.
6. Town-based non-profit making groups charging a fee.
7. Town-based profit making groups charging a fee.
8. Out of town organizations.

It is important for individuals or organizations requesting use of school facilities to read the regulations for the Putnam Board of Education Policy 1330: Use of School Facilities.

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Use of School Facilities (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-239 Use of school facilities for other purposes.

PA 97-290 An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. ss 4071-4074

Good News Club v. Milford Central School Sup.Ct., 6-11-01

20 U.S.C. 7905 (Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act contained in No Child Left Behind Act of 2001)

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PUTNAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Putnam, Connecticut