

Community Relations

Use of School Facilities

The school system is a tax-supported enterprise whose primary purpose is the education of our youth. The school buildings and facilities, however, can serve other purposes as well, if they are made available to groups and organizations when they are not in use for school purposes. Use by other groups is restricted to groups a minimum of whose membership is comprised of fifty percent (50%) Weston residents.

The Board of Education shall grant the use of school facilities for activities of an educational, cultural, civic, social, recreational, governmental or general political nature which are sponsored by responsible local persons, organizations, agencies or institutions as permitted under law. The Board neither endorses nor promotes any of the activities for which the facilities are to be used.

The Board of Education shall not deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity to meet on, the premises, or otherwise discriminate, against any group officially affiliated with The Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Big Brothers - Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Club of America, Future Farmers of America, Little League Baseball, Inc. and any other youth group intended to serve youth under the age of 21 listed in Title 36 of the U.S. Code that wishes to conduct a meeting using school facilities pursuant to this policy. Such groups may use school property upon payment of suitable fees and costs according to the Board approved fee schedule, and such use shall be governed by the following rules and such restrictions as the Superintendent or his/her designee considers expedient.

Types of activities that will not be permitted:

1. Activities advocating the overthrow of the United States, the State of Connecticut, or local governmental agencies.
2. Any activity that promotes illegal activities, or that would otherwise be inappropriate for children under age 18 to witness, or be injurious to the buildings, grounds or equipment of the schools.

3. Any activity in conflict with school activities.
4. Commercial enterprise.
5. Commercial Advertising, except as may be permitted by Board of Education Policy No. 1325.
6. Fund-raising campaigns except as permitted by the Superintendent consistent with Board of Education policy and administrative regulations.
7. Activities that discriminate against or exclude any person, either directly or indirectly, on a basis prohibited by law.

Consistent with this policy, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall approve and schedule the use of school facilities by an individual or group and shall develop guidelines for community use of the schools.

Legal Reference:

Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 10-239 Use of School Facilities for Other Purposes

P.A. 97-290 An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities

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

20 U.S.C. Section 7905, Equal Access to Public School for Boy Scouts of America

26 U.S.C. Section 101 et seq., Patriotic and National Organizations

Good News Club v Milford Central School, Sup. Ct., 06-11-0 20 U.S.C. 7905

Policy References: Policy Number 1325, Advertising and Promotion

Policy adopted: November 6, 1989
 Policy revised: April 27, 2004
 Policy revised: April 25, 2005
 Policy revised: March 19, 2012
 Policy revised: December 16, 2013

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 Weston, Connecticut