

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Greenfield School Committee desires to promote the use of its buildings and grounds for educational and recreational activities subject to school district values and policies, regulations it establishes, and provided such use does not interfere with the use of school buildings and grounds for school purposes (MGL 71:71).

In creating community use guidelines and priorities, the School Committee has these key concerns:

- programs that benefit Greenfield students and their families,
- safety and security of buildings, students, employees, and visitors,
- preserving the condition of buildings, equipment, and grounds for school purposes,
- adherence to school committee policies and individual school guidelines,
- assuring users having appropriate liability coverage,
- guidelines for rooms with specialized equipment, inventories, and regulatory rules,
- fair and reasonable fees, while assuring the district does not incur unbudgeted costs,
- strict compliance with state laws regarding no alcoholic beverage, drugs, weapons, or smoking on school buildings or grounds,
- enhancing the Greenfield community through use of school buildings and grounds.

Permission and Priority of Use

Applications for permission to use school facilities and/or grounds can be obtained either through the respective building administrator or the Office of the Superintendent (submit "Use of School Facilities Request" form). Only the Superintendent and his/her designee are authorized to approve and schedule the use of school facilities or grounds.

All organizations wishing to use school facilities will be expected to share in the direct costs (if applicable) attributed to their use of the facilities (see KF-R). The School Committee cannot/should not absorb any additional, unbudgeted costs (custodial or otherwise) for non-school activities.

School facilities will be used in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and School Committee policy and regulations, including a rental fee schedule approved by the School Committee (KG-R2).

In the event of conflicting calendar requests, and absent a situation that requires an exception, the Superintendent and/or Superintendent's designee will make decisions about school use by the following prioritization:

1. national elections,
2. Greenfield Public School activities,
3. other programs for school-age youth, in this priority:
 - a. programs connected to, supported by, or affiliated with Greenfield school programs, e.g. before and after-school childcare programs, ArtSpace, Youth Orchestra, certain Recreation Department programs, PTO programs,
 - b. programs for school-age youth sponsored by non-profits or city departments,
 - c. programs for school-age youth provided by private, profit-making groups or businesses,
4. official town public hearings and political activities,

5. fundraising programs and activities to benefit the school system,
6. other city departments, including Rec Department programs for adults,
7. local non-profit and non-commercial organization activities,
8. metropolitan, civic, educational, social, and religious organization activities if a substantial portion of the members are residents of the town,
9. activities of other organizations when approved by the School Committee or Superintendent/Superintendent's designee.

The Superintendent and Principals must be aware any time buildings and grounds they oversee are being used by the community.

Revised June 10, 2015

Review 10.20.2016, 10.24.2016, 12.7.16; 12.13.16, 4.6.17, 10.5.17

1st Reading 12.14.16; 2nd reading for vote to Revise 10.11.17 Tabled

Voted and approved by school committee 12.13.17

Legal Ref: MGL 71:71; 71:71B; 272:40A

MGL 71:71 Use of School Property; Purposes

Section 71. For the purpose of promoting the usefulness of public school property **the school committee** of any town **may conduct such educational and recreational activities in or upon school property under its control**, and, subject to such regulations as it may establish, and, consistently and without interference with the use of the premises for school purposes, **shall allow the use thereof by individuals and associations for such educational, recreational, social, civic, philanthropic and like purposes as it deems for the interest of the community.** The **affiliation** of any such association **with a religious organization shall not disqualify** such association from being allowed such a **use for such a purpose.** The use of such property as a place of assemblage for citizens **to hear candidates for public office shall be considered a civic purpose** within the meaning of this section. A school committee **shall award concessions for food at any field** under its control **only to the highest responsible bidder.** This section shall not apply to Boston.

MGL 272:40A

Section 40A. Whoever gives, sells, delivers or has in his possession any alcoholic beverage, except for medicinal purposes, in any public school building, or on any premises used for public school purposes and under the charge of a school committee or other public board or officer, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than thirty days or by a fine of not more than one hundred dollars, or both; provided, however, that a school committee of a city, town or district may authorize a public or nonprofit organization using a public school building with its permission during non-school hours to possess and sell alcoholic beverages therein provided such nonprofit organization is properly licensed under the provisions of section fourteen of chapter one hundred and thirty-eight.