

Policy 19

PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

The Board is obligated to provide facilities and grounds necessary to conduct educational programs. Therefore, the Board's first priority is to meet the needs of students and school programs.

The Board directs, however, that school facilities and grounds be used as extensively as possible by community organizations and other groups when not required for District educational programs.

Stewardship of all school facilities and grounds is the responsibility of the Superintendent subject only to the provisions of this policy.

1. Any facility use shall be at no cost to the Board with all associated and anticipated costs being billed to the user group.
2. All usage and/or rental agreements must respect the provisions of the District's collective agreements.
3. Facilities and/or grounds covered by a joint use agreement will be governed by that agreement.
4. Where the joint use agreement is silent, this policy and the direction of the Superintendent will prevail.
5. The following order of priority will be adhered to in the use of school facilities and grounds:
 - 5.1 Educational purposes: This is a logical extension of the Board's educational mandate. This would include use of facilities for extra-curricular programs operated by the schools;
 - 5.2 Daycare, Before and After School Care Services: This is a secondary priority by virtue of the Ministry of Education's direction and policy. These services are contingent on availability of space within each school;
 - 5.3 Community Service/Cultural/Recreational uses: Community welfare is a primary objective as such uses promote cultural learning or physical fitness;
 - 5.4 General community uses which would include religious and political functions;
 - 5.5 Commercial uses including private and/or out-of-town, profit making programs.
6. The Board reserves its authority to authorize or prohibit the consumption of alcohol at adult functions where school facilities are reserved by a community-based user group.

Legal Reference: Section 65, School Act