

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

This policy defines the general guidelines under which Rapid City Area School facilities may be used for other than district activities. Specific conditions and requirements for requesting and scheduling use of school facilities are contained in Use of School Facilities procedure KG-P.

The facilities of the Rapid City Area Schools are primarily for school purposes. No other use shall be permitted to interfere with the educational purposes for which these buildings and grounds are primarily intended.

The Rapid City Area Schools desires to make school facilities equitably available for after school, evening, and weekend use by the community. Such use is an efficient and effective use of school facilities and, when engaged in by neighborhood and community groups, will promote the expression of community concerns and the development of a sense of community.

The Board of Education wishes to recover custodial, maintenance, supplies and operational costs for Community use of school facilities. It has therefore adopted this policy and related procedures to expand the use of school facilities. It is also to protect the District's interest and property. Costs associated with after school, evening, and weekend use of school facilities shall be recovered through Facility Cost Recovery Fees. Fees shall be charged in accordance with a fee schedule approved by the Rapid City Area School Board of Education or Facilities Committee. Such schedule shall provide for uniform levying of facility fees for the recovery of custodial, grounds, maintenance, supplies and operational costs to the District based upon the particular use of the school facility.

Illegal drugs, the use of tobacco, and the possession of firearms, knives or weapons of any kind, are strictly prohibited on school property.

The use and storage of alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited on school properties. An exception of this policy may occur when approved by the Rapid City Area Schools board of education. Rapid City Area Schools will consider certain requests, locations and specific dates in strict accordance with the City of Rapid City's licensing and permit requirements.

The Rapid City Area School's board of education and/or superintendent reserves the right to deny the use of facilities for any use which, in their judgment, may be in anyway prejudicial to the best interests of the district, extracurricular, and school activities or the educational program, or for which satisfactory sponsorship, or adequate adult supervision is not provided.

Rapid City Area Schools does not wish to compete with private enterprise or to encourage the use of school facilities for commercial or private purposes. The Rapid City Area Schools therefore reserves the right to reject any application for use of district facilities when it believes a commercial facility should be utilized. This applies not only to the use of school buildings and facilities, but also to food services which may be provided by privately owned catering establishments.

Authorization for the use of school facilities by a non-district organization does not constitute an endorsement of the organization, its philosophies, or its policies; and a denial of use does not constitute a rejection of an organization's purposes by the Rapid City Area Schools.

Definitions and requirements:

A. Contractual Agreements

1. The Rapid City Area Schools has Agreements with various City and County agencies, as well as various educational, recreational, and civic organizations whereby the agency or entity permits the Rapid City Area Schools to use its facilities where needed. In turn, the Rapid City Area Schools permits use of its facilities by the agency or entity for its recreational or educational programs.

Fees for the use of Rapid City Area School facilities under an Agreement shall be defined within the Agreement. Use schedule for the use of Rapid City Area School Facilities under an Agreement shall be defined within the Agreement.

B. Educational Institutions

Rapid City Area School facilities may be used, on a fee basis, by other public or private educational institutions insofar as they meet a community educational need not being fulfilled by the Rapid City Area Schools and where they do not interfere with the educational programs being offered by the Rapid City Area Schools or with other activities of the Rapid City Area Schools.

C. Students and Employees

1. Students and employees have the same rights and must comply with the same procedures for the use of Rapid City Area Schools facilities as any citizen. Students must have teacher or parent/guardian supervision when using Rapid City Area Schools facilities.
2. Employee use of Rapid City Area Schools Facilities is encouraged for wellness activities so long as the activities do not infringe on instructional programs, activities, or community use of facilities.

D. School Playgrounds

When School is not in session the use of playgrounds by the Community for wholesome recreational purposes is encouraged. Playground activity shall be appropriate for the playground and does not unduly damage the Rapid City Area Schools facility or Rapid City Area Schools Grounds nor interfere with the educational program.

E. User's Liability

Any user of the Rapid City Area Schools property shall sign a statement that indemnifies and holds harmless the district from any and all losses, including claims, demands, payments, suits, actions, recoveries, and judgments of every nature and description brought against the Rapid City Area Schools by reason of any act or omission of the user.

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Legal Reference:

SDCL 13-24-20 – Use of school facilities or buses for other community or commercial purposes – Compensation – Liability for damages.

SDCL 13-32-7 – Possession of firearms on or in elementary or secondary school premises or vehicle as misdemeanor – Exceptions.

Cross Reference:

ECA - Buildings and Grounds Security