



USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The board subscribes to the belief that public schools are owned and operated by and for its patrons. School facilities will be available for use by the community under a fee schedule and prioritization program established by the Board of Directors, as long as such use will not interfere with school activities, reflect negatively on the district, or pose a high risk of damage to facilities. The public is encouraged to use school facilities, but shall be expected to reimburse the district for such use to insure that funds intended for education are not used for other purposes.

The school district prefers to enter into inter-local or co-operative agreements outside the scope and terms of this procedure when dealing with other government agencies or with groups seeking frequent use. Such agreements are generally negotiated by the district on an annual basis. Frequent users of the Mount Vernon School District are defined as groups using the facilities on a regular, ongoing basis.

The superintendent is authorized to establish procedures for use of school facilities including rental rates, supervisory requirements, restrictions, and security. Those using school facilities shall maintain insurance for accident and liability covering persons using the district's facilities under the sponsorship of the group. For rental rate purposes, those seeking the use of school facilities have been divided into three categories:

I. District, District-Sponsored and District-Affiliated Non-Profit Groups

Includes:

- Activities conducted by ASB, athletic teams or classes.
- Activities conducted by PTA/PTO, district charitable foundation, booster clubs or any other adult group directly supporting the mission of the school district.
- Community ceremonies or memorial services that have widespread community or district interest or involvement and that could not be suitably conducted elsewhere.
- Public election polling/voting activities (polling places).
- Professional development providers targeting district staff and/or parents whose services have been solicited by the district.
- District solicited partnerships that address academic achievement needs for students and families.

II. Non-Profit Youth Groups, Non-Profit Groups Conducting Community Education, Non-Profit Community Groups, Individual Community Members and Informal Groups, Other Governmental Agencies, and Public Colleges and Universities

Includes:

- Activities conducted by Scouts, Campfire, 4-H, youth athletic teams whose team members are predominantly school district youth, the Red Cross and any other groups whose main purpose is to promote the welfare of school district youth or to improve the quality of life in our community through secular education.
- Activities that are religious in nature, such as religious services or ceremonies, religious study or education and prayer meetings.
- Non-profit groups of the kind that, in most communities, have their own facilities (churches, lodges, veteran groups, granges, etc.) who wish to use district facilities on a regular, but temporary, basis may do so under this policy. However, such use is limited to no more than two years and may not be more than twelve hours per week. The district prefers that these groups use commercial or private facilities available in the community.

III. For-Profit Groups, Private Colleges and Universities, and Informal Groups or Individuals from Outside the Community

Includes:

- Activities conducted in order to yield a financial return or other benefit to the promoters, sponsors or other individuals or groups, such as professional or semi-professional sports, concerts, shows, flea or farmer's markets, swap meets, and garage sales.

District, district-sponsored and district-affiliated activities, including curricular and co-curricular functions, retain first priority in the use of district facilities. Any use authorized under this policy is subject to cancellation or relocation without notice to the user or liability to the district and in the district's sole discretion.

Authorization for use of school facilities shall not be considered endorsement or approval of the activity, group or organization, or for the ideals or beliefs represented.

The district shall not deny full enjoyment of its facilities on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability.

Legal References:	RCW 28A.320.510	Night schools, summer schools, meetings, use of facilities for
	RCW 28A.335.150	Permitting use and rental of playgrounds, athletic fields, or athletic facilities
	RCW 28A.335.155	Use of buildings for youth programs - Limited immunity
	RCW 4.24.660	Liability of school districts under contracts with youth programs
	RCW 9.91.010	Denial of civil rights

RCW 49.60.030	Freedom from discrimination
RCW 9.41	Firearms and Dangerous Weapons
RCW 9.41.280	Possessing dangerous weapons on school facilities-Penalty-Exceptions
RCW 69.50	Uniform Controlled Substances Act
RCW 69.50.435	Violations committed in or on certain public places or facilities
RCW 28A. 210. 310	Prohibition of the use of tobacco products on school property
RCW 70.155.080	(Tobacco) ...possession by persons under eighteen