

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Superintendent, subject to the approval of the School Board, may provide for or permit the use of school buildings and grounds out of school hours during the school term or during vacations for any legal assembly. School facilities also may be used as voting places in any primary, regular, or special election. Internal use of school facilities is for authorized educational purposes under the direct control and management of the School Division.

The School Board is authorized to permit use of school property under its control when such use will not impair the efficiency of the school.

Requests for the use of any school facilities shall be made to the Superintendent/Designee.

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Amended: October 26, 2000 (effective January 1, 2001); August 16, 2004; January 28, 2010;
February 14, 2013; August 11, 2016; June 9, 2022
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Equity Review: June 9, 2022

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-79.3, 22.1-130.1, 22.1-131, 22.1-132.
20 U.S.C. §7905.

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

The School Board believes in the full and best possible utilization of the physical facilities belonging to the citizens of Albemarle County. To achieve this end, the use of school facilities for school and student-related activities as well as by outside organizations and groups shall be encouraged when these activities will not interfere with the educational program in the schools.

Safety of citizens, students, and employees and care of school property shall be primary considerations in the use of school facilities. The Superintendent/Designee reserves the right to deny usage or terminate an existing contract in accordance with this policy. Failure to pay promptly all rental charges or damages may be considered sufficient grounds for refusal to grant further use of school property to an applicant.

A. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this policy, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Non-school use” means the use of school facilities for an activity by an affiliated non-profit organization, or a government or non-profit organization.

“School facilities” means buildings and grounds, parking lots, playing fields and fixed equipment under the control of the school division.

Custodial Services are limited to:

- opening and closing buildings, and doors;
- turning lights on and off;
- emergency cleanup during the event;
- normal cleaning after the event;
- maintenance of restrooms during/after the event; and
- ensuring the school is in the proper condition to open the next school day.

Custodial Services **do not include:**

- transporting equipment and/or supplies;
- serving as site supervisor;
- arrangement of any special furniture or equipment; or
- supervision of activities or crowds.

B. Eligible Organizations

The School Board has classified various organizations and groups for the purposes of establishing priority for use and for the charging of fees.

1. Classifications

Type I Organizations

- School and School Division sponsored organizations for activities related to School Division programs or business;
- Associated organizations, such as PTOs/PTAs and Booster Clubs, for activities supporting School Division programs.

Type II Organizations

- Youth organizations, such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, and 4-H Clubs for programs, meetings and activities that do not require a direct fee for participation in such activities;
- Albemarle County Local Government agencies and departments for programs and activities serving Albemarle County citizens;
- Virginia High School League for District and Regional athletic events; and
- Albemarle County neighborhood associations for meetings of less than thirty (30) people.

Type III Organizations

- Other not-for-profit organizations that provide services directly aligned with the goals and objectives of the School Board. Such services may take place during the school day assuming space is available within a given school, specific need has been identified, and that specific terms and conditions of occupancy can be successfully negotiated with the School Board to include fees for the use of space, custodial support, and other terms and conditions. Fees assessed will be determined by contract and are subject to annual review. Agreements under this section are limited to one school year but may be renewed by mutual agreement.

Type IV Organizations

- Other not-for-profit organizations not covered by Types I, II, and III.

Type V

- Individuals or organizations conducting for-profit activities limited to activities for charity, school fundraising, or educational purposes.

2. Membership

The membership of any group or organization requesting the use of school facilities must be largely from Albemarle County. This restriction does not exclude the use of certain facilities, as determined by the Superintendent, by state and national organizations that have a local sponsoring division of such organization.

C. Applications and Approval

Applications must be sponsored by reputable and established clubs, societies, or organizations that reasonably can be held responsible for the payment of charges, compensation for damages to property, and use of the property in reasonable conformity with regulations on the application. All groups using School Division fields or gymnasiums for activities not sponsored by the Albemarle County Department of Parks and Recreation (“Parks and Recreation”) must complete a Building Rental Application. These groups will be subject to established rental and personnel fees.

In no cases may school property be leased to individuals or in ways contrary to Albemarle County’s zoning ordinance or any other ordinance, law, or regulation. Any organization or individual may conduct a profit-making activity if the activity is for charity, school fundraising, or educational purposes. Because schools are educational institutions, their facilities should be used in an appropriate manner to enhance the education and culture of the community. Requests for permission to use school facilities for programs that do not meet this basic standard shall be denied.

The School Board authorizes the Superintendent/Designee to approve all applications for the use of school facilities that meet the requirements of the School Board, this policy, and any other implementing regulations the Superintendent may issue in accordance with this policy in order to protect school property. Applications/requests for building usage may be denied for reasons including, but not limited to, construction, weather, staffing issues, emergency closure, and scheduling conflicts. Weekend use of facilities may be restricted in order to prevent overuse.

The Superintendent/Designee shall design such application forms as are required. The completed and signed form shall be a binding agreement upon the applicant and the School Division. The School Division reserves the right to deny usage of a facility if the application is received less than three (3) business days prior to the start of the event.

For athletic groups that use our facilities during the months of November – February, we offer two (2) timeframes within which to submit winter gym needs/schedule. The first time period for submitting applications to receive winter gym scheduling is August 1-15. The second time period for submitting applications to receive winter gym space is September 1-15. The Facility Operations Manager will review the athletic requests for gyms to help ensure fairness. Applications received after September 15 will be considered in the order they are received.

Parks and Recreation may submit applications for the whole season in advance. Field rental may be restricted to four (4) days per week or less to allow fields to rest and to provide for informal use.

School organizations and PTA's/PTO's, followed by Parks and Recreation Department, have priority usage of all school facilities. During regular school days, community usage will not begin before 6:30 pm at elementary schools to allow for dismissal of after-school programming. There will be a thirty (30)-minute interval between all community usage events to allow for custodial cleaning.

The Superintendent/Designee reserves the right to limit use of School Division facilities at any time including during school breaks, employee holidays, and weekends.

School Division facilities are not intended to be permanent locations for Type IV organizations. Therefore, a Type IV organization using School Division facilities for more than forty (40) days per year for three (3) consecutive years may be required to show evidence of plans to provide its own facility as a condition of use beyond the third year.

Community users are responsible for calling the Community Usage Hotline (434.975.9331) for availability of schools for after-hours usage when schools are closed due to inclement weather or emergency conditions and when inclement weather occurs during the weekend or a non-school day.

D. Fees

1. Establishment of Fees

The School Board has established a minimum schedule of fees based upon the Superintendent’s recommendations and the following factors: classification of the group or organization, facilities to be used, size of the group, approximate cost to the School Division, and the purpose for which the facility will be used. The specific fees to be charged are listed in table format at the end of this administrative procedure. In general, the following will apply:

Classification	Fees
I	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="500 1163 1425 1268">1. No custodial fees will be assessed during normal building operating hours if activities do not require supervision or excessive cleanup, as determined by the Building Services Department. <li data-bbox="500 1310 1425 1520">2. All users should depart the school by 10:00 pm. The minimum personnel charge for custodial, food service, and audio/visual service workers for after hours use will be three (3) hours. Specific custodial needs will be determined by the Building Services Department. Specific food service needs will be determined by the Child Nutrition department. <li data-bbox="500 1604 1425 1709">3. School and School Division sponsored organizations (Type I) may receive up to four (4) hours of custodial service at no charge for a given event that occurs outside of normal operating hours. <p data-bbox="548 1751 1425 1919">Associated organizations may schedule four (4) events each school year that receive up to four (4) hours of custodial service at no charge for a given event that occurs outside of normal operating hours. Any custodial service beyond four (4) hours will be charged at the established rate.</p>

Classification	Fees
II	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No custodial fees will be assessed during normal building operating hours if activities do not require supervision or excessive cleanup, as determined by the Building Services Department. 2. All users should depart the school by 10:00 pm. The minimum personnel charge for custodial, food service, and audio/visual service workers for after hours use will be three (3) hours. Specific custodial needs will be determined by the Building Services Department. Specific food service needs will be determined by the Child Nutrition department. 3. Outside of normal operating hours, non-school organizations will be assessed personnel fees at the established rate. The minimum personnel charge for custodial, food service, and audio/visual service workers for after hours use will be three (3) hours. Specific custodial needs will be determined by the Building Services Department. Specific food service needs will be determined by the Child Nutrition department.
III	Fees assessed will be determined by contract and are subject to annual review.
IV	Base fees and personnel fees (see table at end of Administrative Procedure).
V	Base fees at the for-profit rate and personnel fees (see table at end of Administrative Procedure).

2. Additional Provisions Regarding Personnel Fees

- a. After Hours Fees. The minimum personnel charge for custodial services, audio/visual services or Child Nutrition employees for after hours use will be three (3) hours.
- b. Child Nutrition Employee Fees. If the kitchen is to be accessed for any reason, a Child Nutrition employee must be present to ensure safe and sanitary operation of the food service equipment. The need for Child Nutrition staffing will depend upon the needs of the organization. All organizations will be charged if a Child Nutrition employee is required.
- c. Custodial Fees. Custodial services shall include unlocking and locking doors, operating ceiling lights, maintaining heating and air-conditioning systems, setting up chairs, and normal cleanup. Supervision for community use is not provided by custodians. Rental of facilities by large groups or organizations which require the services of more than one custodian will result in additional personnel fees.
- d. Audio/Visual Technician Fees. Audio/Visual Technician services are required when a group requests to use School Division audio/visual equipment. The services shall include set-up, operation and securing

property. All organizations will be charged if an audio/visual technician is required.

- e. Supervision. All sponsoring organizations should provide a site supervisor. If the School Division determines that the size or nature of the event requires a site supervisor from the school system, appropriate personnel fees will be applied.

3. Payment of Fees/Cancellation

The sponsoring organization whose name appears on the application shall be held responsible for any and all damages to school property and equipment. For prolonged contractual agreements, payments may be paid monthly. Cancellation of a rental must be done at least three (3) business days before the rental. Cancellation later than three (3) business days will result in the renting organization being assessed three (3) hours rental fee and three (3) hours personnel fees.

Please send payment to:
 Albemarle County Public Schools
 Department of Building Services
 2751 Hydraulic Road
 Charlottesville, VA 22901

E. Use of Athletic Fields and Gymnasiums (Not Synthetic Turf Fields)

The use of athletic fields on school property and school gymnasiums by outside sports groups will be scheduled through Parks and Recreation. Scheduling of these spaces will be done in coordination with school principals. School activities will be given priority in scheduling. School needs will be determined by principals.

High schools, with the approval of the Superintendent/Designee, may designate specific athletic fields for limited use by outside groups because of maintenance needs or use by high school athletic teams. High school athletic directors, in consultation with their principals, will make all decisions concerning the closure of these fields to use by outside groups due to weather conditions or for other reasons. Parks and Recreation will make these decisions for all other fields. Groups that do not abide by these decisions may lose the privilege of using school athletic fields at the Superintendent's/Designee's discretion.

The use of athletic fields on school property and school gymnasiums for activities not sponsored by Parks and Recreation or during times not scheduled for use by Parks and Recreation will be subject to established rental and personnel fees.

F. Use of Synthetic Turf Fields

1. General

All users must complete the Division application for use of the turf fields and adhere to the regulations and restrictions set forth by the applicable Athletic Director. All game use or other use requiring a staff attendant requires the payment of a \$25/hr additional fee for staffing to control the scoreboard and/or maintain the facilities. The Athletic Director will determine the need to have staff on site, although all weekend rentals will require it. Use of the fieldhouse bathrooms by community users is prohibited. Any outdoor event over three (3) hours, Community Users will need to rent portable toilets.

2. Parks and Recreation Sponsored Youth Organizations

Parks and Recreation maintains a list of sponsored youth organizations according to its established criteria. These organizations may apply through the Athletic Director and Parks and Recreation for use of the turf field at \$50/hour for all events, games and practices.

3. VHSL Applications

VHSL in-district teams may apply for field use at \$50/hour. For VHSL regional and state tournaments, field use will be charged at \$100/hour.

4. All Other Users

All other users that do not meet the criteria in sections 1-3 may apply for field use at the rate of \$100/hour.

G. Protection of School Property

For use of indoor facilities, an employee of the School Board shall be on duty at the school property at times when the school facilities are in use. Parks and Recreation employees may be used in lieu of School Board employees. No equipment or furnishings may be used or moved without the consent of the employee in charge if such usage is not in conformity with the contracted agreement.

The sponsoring organization shall ensure on-site supervision of all scheduled activities and will ensure that users are conforming to acceptable standards of use. The sponsoring organization shall be responsible for crowd control measures, including the employment of police protection when required. Such control shall be arranged in advance by the sponsoring organization when deemed necessary by the Superintendent/Designee.

The sale or consumption of food and/or beverages will be limited to the cafeteria area only. Alcoholic beverages will be prohibited at all times on school property. Possession of a controlled substance, imitation controlled substance or marijuana, as defined in Virginia Code § 18.2-247, on school property is prohibited.

All groups using school facilities are required to have liability insurance. Documentation of a group's liability insurance coverage will be required.

H. Informal Usage of Outdoor School Property

The School Board endorses the concept that non-secured outdoor facilities at the schools serve a community and district park function in Albemarle County. It is understood that, in general, these facilities will be available for free play or unstructured use during daylight hours at no cost to Albemarle County residents, unless such use would conflict with a reserved use as allowed for above or a school need inclusive of maintenance requirements.

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOLS FEE SCHEDULE

BASE FEES

FACILITY	TYPE I/II	TYPE IV	TYPE V
Auditorium (Audio/Visual Tech Required):	Personnel Fees Only	\$68.20	\$136.40
Blackbox Theatre: (Lighting Tech Required)	Personnel Fees Only	\$20.35	\$40.70
Cafeteria:			
Elementary School Cafeteria	No Charge	\$27.73	\$54.45
Middle School Cafeteria	No Charge	\$34.10	\$68.20
High School Cafeteria	No Charge	\$34.10	\$68.20
Cafeteria w/kitchen [2] (Food Services Associate Required):			
Elementary School Cafeteria w/kitchen	Personnel Fees Only	\$47.58	\$95.15
Middle School Cafeteria w/kitchen	Personnel Fees Only	\$54.45	\$108.90
High School Cafeteria w/kitchen	Personnel Fees Only	\$54.45	\$108.90
Classroom:	No Charge	\$20.35	\$40.70
Forum:	No Charge	\$27.73	\$54.45
Gathering Area:	No Charge	\$13.75	\$27.50
Gymnasium:			
Elementary Gymnasium	No Charge	\$27.73	\$54.45
Middle Gymnasium	No Charge	\$40.70	\$81.40
High School Gymnasium	No Charge	\$61.33	\$122.65
High School Gymnasium w/locker rooms:	No Charge	\$81.68	\$163.35
Media Center:	No Charge	\$34.10	\$68.20
Multi-Purpose Fields:	No Charge	\$34.10	\$68.20
Parking Lot (if specifically requested):			
Elementary and Middle:	No Charge	\$13.75	\$27.50
High:	No Charge	\$13.75	\$27.50
Small Gymnasium:	No Charge	\$20.35	\$40.70
Tennis Courts:	No Charge	\$13.75	\$27.50
Track:	No Charge	\$13.75	\$27.50
After hours field lighting	No Charge	\$14.19	\$28.38
After hours tennis courts lighting	No Charge	\$2.09	\$4.18

SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD FEES

Youth Use sponsored by Parks and Recreation	Adult Group Use or Non-Parks and Recreation sponsored Use
\$50/hour	\$100/hour
Requires Field Supervisor	Requires Field Supervisor
After hours field lighting charge \$14.19/hour	After hours field lighting charge \$14.19/hour

PERSONNEL FEES

Custodial Services (per hour)	\$34.00/hour (Requires minimum of 3 hours)
Child Nutrition Associate	Billed through Child Nutrition (Requires minimum of 3 hours)
Audio/Visual Technician	\$66/hour (Requires minimum of 3 hours)

*Fees may be assessed for damage to our facilities due to external use.

Adopted: July 1, 1993

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February 25, 2010; February 14, 2013; October 8, 2015; August 11, 2016; June 9, 2022