

**BURLINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT  
H 6: USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES**

**Former Policy KG**

The Burlington Board of School Commissioners views the school facilities entrusted to it by law to be community assets. As a service to the community, the Board will allow the use of public school property by individuals and organizations for educational, recreational, social, civic, philanthropic, and commercial purposes. Such use of public school property shall subject to the following guidelines.

The Burlington Board of School Commissioners encourages the use of its facilities at the end of the regular school day particularly for school-age children. Every effort will be made to ensure that self-supporting after-school childcare programs can have appropriate space. Programs and activities must be independently supervised and administered and must not interfere with, nor disrupt the regular school programs.

Permission to use school facilities may be granted to organizations and individuals by the Superintendent or his/her designee, in keeping with procedures adopted by the administration consistent with this Policy and its Procedures.

Pursuant to the federal Equal Access Act, the Board will allow equal access to its school premises during non-instructional time as a Limited Open - Forum and provide a fair opportunity for Burlington High School and other secondary students to conduct voluntary, student initiated meetings regardless of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings in accordance with the accompanying Procedures.

Pursuant to the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, if the Board receives a request, the Board will provide equal access to school premises and facilities during non-instructional time as a Limited Public Forum and provide a fair opportunity for outside youth and community groups, including the Boys Scouts and other Title 36 groups, to meet.

Also pursuant to the Boy Scouts of America Act, if the Board receives a request, the Board will provide equal access for outside youth and community groups, including the Boys Scouts and other Title 36 groups, to meet at those school premises and facilities identified as Designated Open Forums, for reasons other than to provide the school's educational program.

All such outside youth and community groups will be given equal access to benefits and services and be charged based on the same fee schedule.

The Superintendent, with the approval of the Board shall develop a fee schedule to be charged for usage of the facilities by outside groups. The school system will provide adequate custodial service and building security at the expense of the group using the facility. In addition, all such meetings shall be in accordance with the accompanying Procedures and participants are expected to follow School rules and Board policy.

Definitions:

Benefits and Services- Any opportunities provided to another outside youth or community group, including, but not limited to, the use of school related communications, such as bulletin boards, literature distribution and recruitment, must also be granted to Boy Scouts and other Title 36 groups if requested.

Boy Scouts or other Title 36 groups -The Boys Scouts of America or a group or organization listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society that is intended to serve young people under age 21.

Designated Open Forum: Exists when an elementary or secondary school designates a time and place for one or more outside youth or community groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities, and such meeting time may be during or after instructional time and be for a purpose other than to provide the school's educational program.

Limited Open Forum: Exists when a secondary school allows one or more non curriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. Such meetings may not significantly interfere with the educational activities of school, they must be student initiated and voluntary and they cannot be sponsored by the school or the government. No school persons may direct, conduct or regularly attend such meetings and if any agents of the school or government are present at a meeting, they must be non-participatory.

Limited Public Forum: Exists when an elementary or secondary school allows or provides an opportunity to outside youth and community groups, including the Boys Scouts and other Title 36 groups, to meet on school premises at times when attendance is not compulsory.

#### LEGAL REFERENCE:

20 U.S.C.. § 4071, et. seq., Equal Access Act as it may be amended from time to time.

20 U.S.C. § 7905, et seq., Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2001 as it may be amended form time to time; 34 CFR Part 108.

16 V.S.A. § 563(3) Powers of School Boards

City of Burlington Charter, Article 57, School Commissioners

#### CROSS REFERENCES:

Tobacco Prohibition, D 2R

Dangerous Weapons and Devices in Schools, F 4R

Substance Abuse, F 10R (I., c(3) relating to visitors)

Bomb Threats and Conduct During Bomb Threats, F 21

Student Conduct and Discipline, F 13

Hazing Policy, JICFA F 8R

September 25, 1992 Revised

May 14, 1996 Revised

May 14, 1996 Amended

May 8, 2001 Reviewed

Oct. 10, 2006 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

November 14, 2006 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & Adoption