

9.30 - Use of Facilities

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The Alexander City Board of Education believes the functions of school buildings and grounds should be to accommodate approved school programs for students and to assist in meeting the educational, cultural, civic, social and recreational needs of communities. Use of school buildings by the community shall be considered a secondary function and shall be scheduled at times which do not interfere with regular school activities.

1. Use Agreement – The Alexander City Board of Education shall direct the Superintendent to develop administrative rules and regulations governing the use of school facilities including rental fees to be established and published at least annually. The use of school facilities by individuals or groups shall be governed by a signed use agreement between the individual or group and the Board. The use agreement shall contain, but is not limited to, the following:
 1. A “hold harmless” statement having the effect of holding the Board free from any liability arising from the negligence of the party using the facilities.
 1. A statement requiring, with limited exception, any person or group leasing the school facilities to purchase liability insurance indemnifying the Board and its members as additional insured. A certificate verifying the purchase of such insurance should be presented to the Board at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to use of the facilities.
 1. A statement that the individual or group lessee shall assume all responsibility for damage and/or maintenance expenses invested in the building, directly or indirectly resulting from lessee’s use.
 1. The Alexander City Board of Education owned or controlled facility will not be used in any manner not covered under liability insurance purchased by the Board.

- Limited Open Forum - Equal Access

1. Non-curriculum related student organizations shall have the same opportunity to use school facilities as any other student organization, regardless of religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings, subject to the right and obligation of the Board to maintain order and discipline on school premises and to protect the well-being of students and faculty.

1. The principal of the school may approve use of the school facility by a non-curriculum related student organization provided that:

1. The meeting occurs during non-instructional time and is attended by a school employee/designee who shall provide general supervision.

2. The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated. Only students enrolled in the school may request the meeting.

3. The meeting is not sponsored by the school, the Board, or employees thereof.

4. The presence of Alexander City School System authorities or Board employees at any religious meeting is non-participatory in nature. The presence of school employees is for observation only.

5. The meeting does not interfere with regular instructional activities of the school.

6. The meeting shall not be directed, conducted, controlled or regularly attended by non-school persons.

7. The non-curriculum related student group shall not use the school name, school mascot name, or any name that might imply school

1. No school employee shall be compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of the speech at such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the employee.

1. Any student organization seeking to meet on school property during non-instructional time shall submit a written application to the school principal. Application shall include the following information:

1. The name of the organization.

2. A general statement of the purpose of the organization.

3. A description of the qualifications for membership, if any.

4. A statement that the students understand and agree to comply with this equal access policy.

5. A proposed schedule of meetings and activities.

1. The principal shall deny approval to any organization whose purposes, qualifications for membership, or proposed activities are unlawful.

1. Failure to comply with this policy shall be grounds for revocation of the right to continue to conduct meetings under this policy.

REFERENCE(S):

CODE OF ALABAMA

16-1-25, 16-10-11, 16-11-9, 16-11-11, 16-11-12, 16-12-3(a)

HISTORY:

ADOPTED: JULY 1, 1997

REVISED: JULY 13, 2010

FORMERLY: ECCF