

## CURRENT POLICY

~~Section 10-11.2. Groups Permitted to Use School Facilities; Requirements for use by religious organization; Exception to 100 day limit; Superintendent to Make Report; Superintendent to develop regulations for its implementation. — A. The following groups and/or organizations are permitted to contract for use of school facilities for a total of no more than 100 days during the contractual period as provided for in regulations adopted by Suffolk Public Schools:~~

- ~~(1) A Group I organization is defined as any organization that sponsors programs and/or activities which benefit school age children enrolled in Suffolk Public Schools. Group I organizations include youth organizations, governmental units, and volunteer safety organizations. Specific examples include, but are not limited to P.T.A.'s, Scouts, 4 H Clubs, City of Suffolk departments, volunteer fire departments and rescue squads, police auxiliaries, school business partners, the YMCA, and the Suffolk Art League.~~
- ~~(2) A Group II organization is defined as any cultural, charitable, or civic organization which has been granted 501(c)(3) status by the Internal Revenue Service.~~
- ~~(3) A Group III organization is defined as any group, club, business, partnership, or association, which does not meet the definition of a Group I or II organization.~~

~~B. With regard to any religious organization including, but not limited to, churches, synagogues, temples and mosques, interested in using any Suffolk Public School facility for continuous religious observances, the religious organizations must (a) renew their application for use of the facility at six month intervals; and (b) provide to the School Board sufficient evidence to establish that the religious organization has taken steps to secure a permanent place of worship which may include, but shall not be limited to, (i) the purchase of land (ii) the development of architectural and/or engineering plans for the construction of a new facility or the renovation of an existing facility; or (iii) proof of project financing for the construction of a new facility or the renovation of an existing facility.~~

~~C. The 100 day limit referenced in subsection A shall not apply to government units. Used by governmental units can be granted for periods longer than 100 days.~~

~~D. The Superintendent shall report to the School Board at the end of each month any action under this section.~~

~~E. The Superintendent shall also develop regulations for the implementation of this policy. (Adopted January 12, 1995; Revised August 12, 1999; Ordinance 00/01-1; Revised May 8, 2008; Ordinance Number 07/08-11; Effective May 8, 2008)~~

## NEW POLICY

**Section 10-11.2. Use of School Property Generally; use of school property by youth-oriented and community organizations; limits on use; charges for use; superintendent to develop regulations. — A. Suffolk Public Schools are primarily designed and constructed to support the educational programs of the school division.**

However, the School Board permits the use of school property upon such terms and conditions that will not impair the efficiency of the schools.

B. The School Board provides reasonable and appropriate access to school property by youth-oriented and community organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA, including their volunteers and staff, to distribute and provide instructional materials in order to encourage participation in such organizations and their activities. Any such access provided during the school day must not conflict with instructional time. Such access may also include after-school sponsored activities such as "Back to School" events, where it can be reasonably accommodated.

C. The School Board prohibits the use of school property when:

- (1) Classes are in session.
- (2) The use would likely result in violation of any existing local, state or federal law.
- (3) The use conflicts with school functions or other previously approved uses in any manner.
- (4) The request for use is not signed by a person who is 21 years of age or older who resides in the City of Suffolk and an active member of the requesting organization.
- (5) The described use would conflict with a policy, procedure, or the mission of Suffolk Public Schools.
- (6) The previous use of facilities by the applicant was not satisfactorily completed or this Policy and/or its accompanying Regulation were violated.
- (7) It is determined by school officials that the proposed use would result in an unacceptable risk to persons or school property.
- (8) The applicant organization has engaged or is engaging in conduct that is in violation of local, state, or federal law.
- (9) The applicant organization promotes the use of alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, vapor or related products, illegal substances, cannabis or related paraphernalia, or improper use of firearms.
- (10) The applicant provides false information, misrepresentation, or omission of any facts in the Application (facility use request) and/or other required documents.

D. The School Board authorizes charges and fees for use of school property. These charges are designed not to limit or prohibit use, but to protect citizens from expenditures of public money appropriated for classroom instruction and for other purposes.

E. The school superintendent is authorized to promulgate regulations to implement this policy as needed and will establish a priority of use, a fee rate structure if applicable, and rules for use. The school superintendent will also report to the School Board at the end of each month actions taken under this policy.

**Legal Authority** - Virginia Code §§ 22.1-79.3, 22.1-131, 22.1-132, 22.1-132.01.