

COMMUNITY USE OF COLLEGE DISTRICT FACILITIES

GD
(LOCAL)

Use of Facilities

The grounds and facilities of the College District shall be available to community members and organizations, including College District-support organizations and others in a manner that will best serve the mission of the College District.

The College District's general purpose classrooms, LRC Auditorium, Tech-VOC Auditorium, Fine Arts Auditorium, Gym, Bennie Matthews Commons within the Student Center, and Conference Center shall be available for use when such use is for educational, recreational, civic, or social activities and the use does not conflict with any of the policies and procedures of the College District.

In keeping with its mission, first consideration for use of College District facilities shall be given to training, planning, consulting, meetings, and educational events sponsored or hosted by the College District or the College of the Mainland Foundation. Space for such events may be reserved a year in advance.

Second consideration shall be given to educational, recreational, and/or cultural events sponsored by non-College District groups or organizations as well as special events such as banquets, weddings, showers, receptions, and family celebrations. Space for such events may be reserved not more than six months in advance.

Reservations

All reservations must be made no less than two weeks prior to the event. Reservations will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis and shall not be canceled or displaced by subsequent reservations.

Management of all facilities shall be under the general control and supervision of the College President, subject to the terms and provisions of this policy and other rules and regulations.

Application for use of College District facilities shall be made to the office designated by the College President.

[For use by employees or employee organizations, see DGD. For use by students and registered student organizations, see FLAA.]

Alcohol

The consumption of alcoholic beverages shall be allowed in the Conference Center and other areas as approved by the College President, and must follow the laws of the state of Texas, the rules and regulations of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, and the College District approval process as specified in facility guidelines. [See DH and FLBE]

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Fees

A fee sufficient to cover the cost of overhead, which is inclusive of administrative services, janitorial services, utilities, security, technology, and other appropriate costs, shall be charged for the use of College District facilities.

The Board shall establish and publish a schedule of fees based on the cost of the physical operation of the facilities, as well as any applicable administrative, personnel costs for supervision, custodial services, food services, security, and technology services.

Fees shall not be charged when College District buildings are used for public meetings sponsored by state or local governmental agencies.

The College President shall have the authority to waive any and all fees for events that advance the mission of the College District and serve a business purpose.

Approval

Requests for community use of College District facilities shall be considered in accordance with provisions set out in this policy and administrative procedures, without regard to the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech likely to be associated with the community member's or organization's use of the facility.

Approval shall not be granted when the official has reasonable grounds to believe that:

1. The College District facility requested is unavailable, inadequate, or inappropriate to accommodate the proposed use at the time requested;
2. The applicant is subject to a sanction [see Violations of Policy, below] prohibiting the use of the facility;
3. The proposed use would constitute an immediate and actual danger to the peace or security of the College District that available law enforcement officials could not control with reasonable efforts;
4. The applicant owes a monetary debt to the College District and the debt is considered delinquent;
5. The proposed activity would disrupt or disturb the regular academic program; or
6. The proposed use would result in damage to or defacement of property or the applicant has previously damaged College District property.

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Emergency Use	In case of emergencies or disasters, the College President may authorize the use of College District facilities by civil defense, health, or emergency service authorities.
Vendor Solicitation on Campus	Vendor solicitation is prohibited on College District property except as authorized at CFE(LOCAL). For purposes of this policy, "vendor" is defined as a seller of goods and services.
Off-Campus Use of College District Property	College District property shall not be taken off campus for personal use without appropriate approval.
Dissemination of External Publications	<p>For purposes of this policy, external publications are defined to include newspapers, magazines, leaflets, and flyers. This policy shall not apply to College District publications.</p> <p>Policy guidelines are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Publications that are defined as commercial speech (i.e., advertising) while constitutionally protected, do not enjoy the same protection afforded political speech. Since the College District is not a commercial entity, the College District does not encourage purely commercial publications but may allow their dissemination.2. Publications that are judged to be obscene shall not be disseminated. The criteria to be used in deciding whether material is obscene was developed by the U.S. Supreme Court in <u>Miller vs. California</u> (1973):<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest;b. Whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct specifically defined by the applicable state law; andc. Whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.<p>[In <u>Pope vs. Illinois</u> (1987), the Court ruled that local standards may be employed when considering (a) and (b) above, but a national standard should be used in determining (c).]</p>3. Any person requesting the distribution of publications shall submit a written request and obtain permission from the vice president for fiscal affairs or designee prior to distribution in order to receive the guidelines regarding dissemination.

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Political Signs on Campus

This provision addresses signs that are free standing, temporary endorsements of a political candidate or issue.

Political signs meeting the following criteria shall be allowed on campus:

1. The size of the signs must not exceed 24 inches x 24 inches.
2. The placement of signs must not obstruct the view of motorists traveling on roadways around the College District.
3. Except on polling days, signs must be placed on the northeast corner of Amburn Road and Monticello or on the southeast or southwest corner of Amburn Road and FM 1764.
4. On polling days, signs may be placed within legal limits near the designated walkway to the polling place from the parking lots and removed after the polls have closed.
5. All signs must be removed within five calendar days after an election.

Violations of Policy

Failure to comply with the policy and procedures regarding community use of College District facilities or dissemination of external publications shall result in appropriate administrative action, including but not limited to, the suspension of the individual's or organization's use of College District facilities and the confiscation of nonconforming materials.

Appeals

Decisions made by the administration in accordance with this policy may be appealed in accordance with GB(LOCAL).