

REGULATIONS

SUBJECT: Facility Partnerships

BACKGROUND

School boards around Ontario have successful facility partnerships involving coterminous boards and other community partners. The Ministry of Education introduced a new Facility Partnerships Guideline (Feb, 2010) to encourage boards and communities in building successful partnerships.

AVAILABLE SPACE

1. In order to maximize the efficiency of operations, the Board will work with interested and approved partners to share unused surplus space in school facilities during school hours, from 7am to 6pm, Monday to Friday.
2. The Board will determine available space based on the following criteria:
 - Space needs of educational programming and initiatives,
 - The Board's pupil accommodation strategies including school consolidations,
 - Student achievement and safety goals,
 - Zoning and site use restrictions,
 - Facility condition, configuration of space and other site specific factors,
 - Suitability and long-term availability of surplus space.

CRITERIA FOR SHARING AVAILABLE SURPLUS SPACE

3. Facility partnerships must be appropriate for the school setting, provide value to the student population and must not compromise the student achievement strategy.
4. The health and safety of students must be protected.
5. Facility partnerships must provide a reduction in facility operating costs.
6. Facility partnerships must improve services and supports available to students.
7. Facility partnerships must strengthen relationships between the Board and community partners and the public,
8. Facility partnerships must maximize the use of public infrastructure.

9. Facility partnerships must provide a foundation for improved service delivery for communities.
10. Facility partnerships will not prevent the Board from building, renovating or closing schools or from disposing of surplus assets when required.
11. Entities providing competing education services are not eligible partners.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

12. Potential partners will be required to enter into a tenant legal agreement with the Board that provides for:
 - Compliance with the Education Act.
 - Payment of fees, on a cost-recovery basis, to the Board to cover the operations, capital costs and administrative costs to the Board for the space occupied by the partner.
 - Other renovation costs that may be required to make the space suitable for use by facility partners and/or to protect student safety.
13. Facility partnership agreements will be reviewed on an annual basis, subject to the needs of the school and the Board.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

14. The Board will provide a list of facilities with surplus space in open and operating schools that is available for facility partnerships
15. The list of available surplus space will be updated annually by the Board at one of the Regular Public Board Meetings in June.

Implementation Date: June 22, 2010

Reference: Ministry of Education Facility Partnerships Guideline
Board Policy