



Occasionally, community members will mistakenly believe they are entitled to free and open use of school property, citing Utah Code 53G-7-209 as legal justification. However, Utah Code 53G-7-210 states that use of school property is managed and controlled by the school and usage cannot interfere with school functions.

For example, having to clean up waste and other material after public use can impose costs of time, resources, and funding to manage. This negatively impacts our educational system. Further, Utah Code 53G-8-603 states that trespass upon school property is subject to penalty.

We ask all members of the public to respect school property so that our schools can be a place of learning, free of distractions, health risks, and unnecessary expenses. If you have questions about usage of school property, please contact the school directly or Murray City School District office at (801) 264-7400 or you can email us at info@murrayschools.org

53G-7-209 Use of public school buildings and grounds as civic centers.

(1) As used in this section, "civic center" means a public school building or ground, including a charter school building or ground, that is established and maintained as a limited public forum for supervised recreational activities and meetings.

(2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), all public school buildings and grounds shall be civic centers.

(3) The use of school property as a civic center:
(a) may not interfere with a school function or purpose; and
(b) is considered a permit for governmental immunity purposes for a governmental entity under Subsection 63G-7-201(4)(c).

(4) The organizer of an event may not use a civic center unless the organizer resides within the geographic boundaries of the school district in which the civic center is located.

53G-7-210 Local school boards' and charter school governing boards' responsibility for school buildings and grounds when used as civic centers.

(1) As used in this section, "civic center" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-7-209.

(2) A local school board or charter school governing board:
(a) shall manage, direct, and control civic centers;
(b) shall adopt policies for the use of civic centers;



(c) may charge a reasonable fee for the use of a civic center so that the school district or charter school incurs no expense for that use;
(d) may appoint a special functions officer under Section 53-13-105 to have charge of the grounds and protect school property when used for civic center purposes;
(e) shall allow the use of a civic center, for other than school purposes, unless it determines that the use interferes with a school function or purpose; and (f) shall ensure that school administrators are trained about and properly implement the provisions of this section and Section 53G-7-209.

53G-8-603. Criminal trespass upon school property -- Penalty.

(1) A person is guilty of criminal trespass upon school property if the person does the following:

- (a) enters or remains unlawfully upon school property, and:
 - (i) intends to cause annoyance or injury to a person or damage to property on the school property;
 - (ii) intends to commit a crime; or
 - (iii) is reckless as to whether the person's presence will cause fear for the safety of another; or
- (b) enters or remains without authorization upon school property if notice against entry or remaining has been given by:
 - (i) personal communication to the person by a school official or an individual with apparent authority to act for a school official;
 - (ii) the posting of signs reasonably likely to come to the attention of trespassers;
 - (iii) fencing or other enclosure obviously designed to exclude trespassers; or
 - (iv) a current order of suspension or expulsion.

(2) As used in this section:

- (a) "Enter" means intrusion of the entire body.
- (b) "School official" means a public or private school administrator or person in charge of a school program or activity.
- (c) "School property" means real property owned or occupied by a public or private school, including real property temporarily occupied for a school activity or program.

(3) Violation of this section is a class B misdemeanor.