

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT re:
HARDEE COUNTY COMMUNITY RECREATION COMPLEX OPERATIONS

This is an Interlocal Agreement entered into by the School Board of Hardee County, the Board of County Commissioners of Hardee County, the City Council of the City of Wauchula, the Town Council of the Town of Zolfo Springs, and the City Council of the City of Bowling Green.

WHEREAS, sec. 163.01, Fla. Stat. provides that local government units may cooperate by Interlocal agreement to provide services necessary to their citizens;

WHEREAS, the School Board of Hardee County, the Board of County Commissioners of Hardee County, the City Council of the City of Wauchula, the Town Council of the Town of Zolfo Springs, the City Council of the City of Bowling Green (the Parties) desire, collectively, through an Interlocal agreement to provide for the operation of a Hardee County Community Recreation Complex;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises, and in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and pursuant to the provisions of sec. 163.01, Fla. Stat., the undersigned Parties, agree as follows:

1. **Fiscal Agent:** The School Board agrees to remain the fiscal agent, contingent upon all the Parties fulfilling their fiscal responsibilities. The School Board, assuming the role of Fiscal Agent, will be responsible for administering the operations, accounting, the programing utilizing the Community Education Concept.
2. **Budget:** The budget for the Hardee County Recreational Center operations will be set on an annual basis and will be approved by each of the Parties, and recommended by the Recreation Complex Committee. The Recreational Center shall operate on a July 1st fiscal year basis. Each of the Parties will budget its contributions for operation for the July 1st fiscal year.
3. **Operational Contributions:** The individual contributions of the Parties for operation of the Recreational Center will be as follows:
 - a) The School Board will be responsible for contributing 50% of the total general budget and providing repairs and maintenance as they relate to carpentry and plumbing.
 - b) The County of Hardee will be responsible for contributing 28% of the total general budget, the insurance on the property, and repairs and maintenance as they relate to paving, road repairs/excavation (such as grading, hauling clay, fill dirt, etc.)
 - c) The City of Wauchula along with the town of Zolfo Springs and the City of Bowling Green will be responsible for 22% of the total General Budget with the City of Wauchula contributing 70% of the total 22%, the City of Bowling Green 19% of the

total 22%, the Town of Zolfo Springs 11% of the total 22%. The City of Wauchula will be responsible for providing all repairs and maintenance dealing with outside electrical works at the Recreational Complex.

4. **Capital Outlay Contributions:** The School Board and the County of Hardee shall each place \$4,000 and the City of Wauchula shall place \$2,000 at the beginning of each fiscal years into a Capital Outlay Fund to be used for major repairs, renovation, or to be used for new construction.
5. **Committee:** There shall be a Recreation Complex Committee to provide advice. The Recreation Complex Committee will remain in existence throughout the life of the Hardee County Recreation Complex and shall serve in an advisory capacity. The Chairman of the committee shall be the Hardee County School Board Recreational Director.
6. **Committee Representation:** All decisions will be made by a majority of the committee members. Representation on the committee shall be as follows:

Commissioners	2 Votes
City of Wauchula	2 Votes
Zolfo Springs	1 Vote
Bowling Green	1 Vote
School Board	2 Votes + 1 with Chairman voting
7. **Effective date:** This agreement will go into effect after it is fully executed by the Parties, and filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Hardee County. In recognition of the joint and cooperative efforts and investments of the Parties, this Interlocal Agreement shall be retroactive to July 1, 2026.
8. **Term of Agreement:** The term of this Interlocal Agreement shall be for one (1) year.
9. **Termination of Agreement:** This Interlocal Agreement shall be terminated only by the affirmative action of the Parties. If the Parties decide to terminate this Interlocal Agreement, then the Committee shall make recommendations to the Parties for the disposition, diversion, or distribution of all property and funds used, held, or owing under this Interlocal Agreement. The Parties shall review the recommendations of the Committee, and take such action as in the public interest.
10. **Filing with the Clerk:** When the Parties have fully executed this Interlocal Agreement, it shall be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.
11. **Counterparts:** This Interlocal Agreement shall be made and executed in six (6) counterparts. An original shall be maintained by each Party and an original filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Parties have caused this Interlocal Agreement to be executed on the dates set forth below:

Attest:

Superintendent of Schools

Date: _____

School Board of Hardee County

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Attest:

Clerk of Court

Date: _____

Board of County Commissioners of Hardee County

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Attest:

City Clerk

Date: _____

City Council of the City of Wauchula

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Attest:

Town Clerk

Date: _____

Town Council of the Town of Zolfo Springs

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

Attest:

City Clerk

Date: _____

City Council of the City of Bowling Green

By: _____

Chairman

Date: _____

The Community Education Concept

The major educational institution in any community is the school. Since the formation of schools in America, these institutions have been used by all ages for numerous social functions, meetings, and educational purposes. Recent decades have shown a trend towards isolation of the schools in the community. Schools have been used solely to educate children with little involvement with the community. And today, only 20% to 25% of the households have children in the schools, meaning that residents in 75% to 80% of the households do not have a direct connection with the school.

The traditional school, operating between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., five days a week, forty weeks a year, does not respond to the needs of all members of the community. The community education concept is a belief that the school is most effective when the citizens of the community it serves play an important role in the development, evaluation, and implementation of programs and activities that meet their needs and wants. This approach means that the school buildings will be open for use by all community members.

Community education is a philosophical concept, which recognizes that all aspects of community life are important, and strives to produce a better quality of life for all community members. It is a concept based on cooperation, collaboration, and planning. The community education concept is a tool for providing opportunities to community residents. Community education is flexible, allowing for meeting the needs of different community members, while coordinating resources to meet those needs. Community education is an approach to community improvement that involves citizens in determining needs, planning and action. It is an approach that promotes the application of the community's resources towards community improvement. Jack Minzey and Clyde LeTarte, community education historians and authors, in their book *Reforming Public Schools Through Community Education*, characterize community education as a "philosophical concept that serves the entire community by providing for all the educational needs of all of its community members. It uses the local school to serve as the catalyst for bringing community resources to bear on community problems in an effort to develop a positive sense of community, improve community living, and develop the community process toward the end of self-actualization." (1972).

There are six basic components defined by Minzey and Latarte (1994) in a complete community education model. These include the following:

- An educational program for school-age children-the traditional K-12 program
- Use of community facilities-schools should become community centers, utilized to meet the needs of all community members
- Additional programs for school age and youth-providing enrichment, remedial, and supplement educational and recreational opportunities, i.e. summer school
- Program for adults-learning and leisure opportunities for adults, i.e. Adult Basic Education
- Delivery of community services-assisting in the coordination of services from community agencies and organizations
- Community Involvement-providing a forum for citizens to identify community needs, and matching local resources to meet the needs

Each community education model develops its own unique characteristics to fit its community and school. The key to developing a community education model is the participation of the citizenry.

