1401

Records Available to Public

All District records, except those restricted by state and federal law, shall be available to citizens for inspection at the Clerk's office.

Any individual may request public information from the district. The district shall make the means of requesting public information accessible to all persons.

Upon receiving a request for public information, the district shall respond in a timely manner to the requesting person by:

- (a) Making the public information available for inspection and copying by the requesting person; or
- (b) Providing the requesting person with an estimate of the time it will take to fulfill the request if the public information cannot be readily identified and gathered and any fees that maybe charged.

The district may charge a fee for fulfilling a public information request. The fee may not exceed the actual costs directly incident to fulfilling the request in the most cost-efficient and timely manner possible. The fee must be documented. The fee may include the time required to gather public information. The district may require the requesting person to pay the estimated fee prior to identifying and gathering the requested public information.

The district is not required to alter or customize public information to provide it in a form specified to meet the needs of the requesting person. If the district agrees to a request to customize a records request response, the cost of the customization may be included in the fees charged by the district.

An individual wishing public information that is in electronic format or other non-print media must submit a detailed description, to the Superintendent, of the information requested. The District will provide the public information as required under § 2-6-110, MCA.

In accordance with § 20-9-213(1), MCA, the record of the accounting of school funds shall be open to public inspection at any meeting of the trustees. A fee may be charged for any copies requested. Copies will be available within a reasonable amount of time following a request.

A written copy of Board minutes shall be available to the general public within five (5) working days following approval of the minutes by the Board. If requested, one (1) free copy of minutes shall be provided to local media within five (5) working days following approval by the Board.

Fees will be charged as follows:

	Copy of other materials - 25¢ per page
	Time spent researching a copy project will be charged at the employee's hourly rate of pay.

Legal References:	§ 2 6 102, MCA	Citizens entitled to inspect and copy public writings
	§ 2-6-110, MCA	Electronic Information and nonprint records
	§ 2-6-1003, MCA	Access to Public Information
	§ 2-6-1006, MCA	Public Information requests - fees
	§ 20-3-323, MCA	District policy and record of acts

Policy History:
Adopted on: May 15, 2001
Revised on: May 11, 2010
Reviewed on: Nov 17, 2016

STUDENTS 3141 page 1 of 2

Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance Policy

The Board, recognizing that its resident students need an orderly educational process and environment, free from disruption, overcrowding, and any kind of violence or disruptive influences, hereby establishes criteria for the discretionary admission of nonresident students.

- 1. Except as required by § 20-5-321, MCA, the District will admit nonresident students at its discretion. As such, the District will screen all nonresident students and consider only those who meet the criteria set forth in this policy.
- 2. The Superintendent will recommend to the Board any nonresident student admission in accordance with this policy, with the Board making the final decision on admission.
- 3. Nonresident students who do not qualify for mandatory attendance will not be admitted to District schools. Exceptions are foreign exchange students, under Policy 3145, and children in the immediate family of nonresident District employees. The District, at its discretion, also may consider for admission other nonresident students.
- 4. The District will examine a student's records from this district and other previous school districts before any Board approval for admission. Review of the records and decisions regarding admission cannot be inconsistent with district policies regarding nondiscrimination.
- 5. The District has the option of accepting a nonresident student who does not meet the criteria set forth by the administration, if the student agrees to special conditions of admission as set forth by the District.
- 6. Every nonresident student who attends District schools must reapply for admission for the succeeding school year by June 15. Admission in one school year does not infer or guarantee admission in subsequent years.
- 7. The District will not admit nonresident students when doing so would <u>cause the district</u> to exceed the class size standards under 10.55.712 and 10.55.713, <u>ARM.require hiring</u> additional staff or providing educational services not currently offered or would create erowding of existing classes.
- 8. All resident students who become nonresidents because their parents or guardians move out of the District may continue attendance for the semester school year, barring registration in another District. At the completion of the semester school year, a student must apply as a nonresident student in accordance with #5.
- 9. The Board reserves the right to charge tuition for nonresident students. At its

discretion, the Board may charge or waive tuition for all students whose tuition is required to be paid by one kind of entity, defined as either a parent or guardian or a school district. Any waiver of tuition will be applied equally to all students whose tuition is paid by the same

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kind of entity (i.e., if the District charges tuition in those circumstances where a resident district pays but waives tuition in those circumstances where a parent or guardian is responsible for tuition, the tuition waiver will be applicable to all students whose parents or guardians bear the responsibility for payment).

- 10. All nonresident students will be considered ineligible transportees for school transportation services (§ 20-10-101, MCA).
- 11. The Board may declare an emergency which, in its opinion, necessitates the removal of all nonresident students from District schools.
- 12. The Board will not admit any student who is expelled from another school district.

13. Nonresident students enrolled under this policy are subject to all district policies, rules, regulations on the same basis as resident students.

Cross Reference:	Policy 2161 – 2161I	Special Education		
Policy 3110	Entrance, Placement, and Transfer			
Policy 3125	Education of Homeless Children			
	Policy 3210	Equal Education, Nondiscrimination and Sex		
		Equity		
Legal Reference:	§ 20-5-314, MCA	Reciprocal attendance agreement with adjoining		
		state or province		
	§ 20-5-320, MCA	Attendance with discretionary approval		
	§ 20-5-321, MCA	Attendance with mandatory approval – tuition and		
		transportation		
	§ 20-5-322, MCA	Residency determination – notification – appeal for		
		attendance agreement		
	§ 20-5-323, MCA	Tuition and transportation rates		
	10.10.301B, ARM	Out-of-District Attendance Agreements		
	10.55.712, ARM	Class Size Elementary		
	10.55.713, ARM	Teacher Load and Class Size – High School		

Policy History:

Adopted on: March 18, 2008

Reviewed on: Revised on:

Cascade School District

PERSONNEL 5500

Payment of Wages Upon Termination

When a District employee quits, is laid off, or is discharged separates from employment, wages owed will be paid on the next regular pay day for the pay period in which the employee left employment or within fifteen (15) days from the date of separation of employment, whichever occurs first.

In the case of an employee discharged for allegations of theft connected to the employee's work, the District may withhold the value of the theft, provided:

- The employee agrees in writing to the withholding; or
- The District files a report of the theft with law enforcement within seven (7) business days of separation.

If no charges are filed within thirty (30) days of the filing of the report with law enforcement, the wages are due within a thirty (30)-day period.

Legal Reference: § 39-3-205, MCA Payment of wages when employee separated from

employment prior to payday — exceptions

Policy History:

Adopted on: May 15, 2001 Revised on: July 17, 2007

Revised on: September 15, 2009

Cascade School District

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

7320 page 1 of 2

<u>Purchasing</u>

Authorization and Control

The Superintendent is authorized to direct expenditures and purchases within limits of the detailed annual budget for the school year. The Board must approve purchase of capital outlay items, when the aggregate total of a requisition exceeds \$50,000 (cannot exceed \$80,000), except the Superintendent shall have the authority to make capital outlay purchases without advance approval when necessary to protect the interests of the District or the health and safety of staff or students. The Superintendent will establish requisition and purchase order procedures to control and maintain proper accounting of expenditure of funds. Staff who obligate the District without proper authorization may be held personally responsible for payment of such obligations.

Bids and Contracts

Whenever it is in the interest of the District, the District will execute a contract for any building furnishing, repairing, purchasing or other work for the benefit of the District or purchasing of supplies for the District is necessary, the work done or the purchase made must be by contract. If the sum of the contract or work exceeds Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000), the District will call for formal bids by issuing public notice as specified in statute. Specifications will be prepared and made available to all vendors interested in submitting a bid. The contract shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, except that the trustees may reject any or all bids as per § 18-4-307, MCA as stated below in the legal reference. The Board, in making a determination as to which vendor is the lowest responsible bidder, will take into consideration not only the amount of each bid, but will also consider the skill, ability, and integrity of a vendor to do faithful, conscientious work and to promptly fulfill the contract according to its letter and spirit. Bidding requirements do not apply to a registered professional engineer, surveyor, real estate appraiser, or registered architect; a physician, dentist, pharmacist, or other medical, dental, or health care provider; an attorney; a consulting actuary; a private investigator licensed by any jurisdiction; a claims adjuster; or an accountant licensed under Title 37, Chapter 50.

Advertisement for bid must be made once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks, and a second (2nd) publication must be made not less than five (5) nor more than twelve (12) days before consideration of bids.

The Superintendent will establish bidding and contract-awarding procedures. Bid procedures will be waived only as specified in statute. Any contract required to be let for bid shall contain language to the following effect:

In making a determination as to which vendor is the lowest responsible bidder, if any, the District will take into consideration not only the pecuniary ability of a

integrity of a vendor to do faithful, conscientious work and promptly fulfill the contract according to its letter and spirit. References must be provided and will be contacted. The District further reserves the right to contact others with whom a vendor has conducted business, in addition to those listed as references, in determining whether a vendor is the lowest responsible bidder. Additional information and/or inquiries into a vendor's skill, ability, and integrity are set forth in the bid specifications.

Cooperative Purchasing

The District may enter into cooperative purchasing contracts with one or more districts for procurement of supplies or services. A district participating in a cooperative purchasing group may purchase supplies and services through the group without complying with the provisions of 20-9-204(3), MCA if the cooperative purchasing group has a publicly available master list of items available with pricing included and provides an opportunity at least twice yearly for any vendor, including a Montana vendor, to compete, based on a lowest responsible bidder standard, for inclusion of the vendor's supplies and services on the cooperative purchasing group's master list.

Legal Reference:	§ 18-1-101, et seq., MCA § 18-1-201, et seq., MCA § 18-4-307, MCA	Preferences and General Matters Bid Security Cancellation of invitations for bids or
	-	requests for proposals
	§ 20-9-204, MCA	Conflicts of interests, letting contracts, and calling for bids - exceptions
	§ 20-10-110, MCA	School Bus Purchases – contracts- bids
	Debcon v. City of Glasgow,	305 Mont. 391 (2001)

Policy History:

Adopted on: May 15, 2001

Reviewed on:

Revised on: October 11, 2001 Revised on: July 17, 2007 Revised on: September 17, 2013

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Procurement of Supplies or Services

The Board adopts the following provisions of the Montana Procurement Act (i.e., § 18-4-101, et seq., MCA):

(List specific provisions, i.e.:

- 1. § 18-4-303, MCA Competitive sealed bidding. With the exception of construction contracts, allows the District to negotiate an adjustment of the bid price with the lowest responsible bidder in order to bring the bid within the amount of available funds, if, and only if, all bids exceed available funds and the lowest responsible bid does not exceed available funds by more than five percent (5%).
- 2. § 18-4-306, MCA Sole source procurement. A contract may be awarded for a supply or service item without competition when, the District determines in writing that:
 - (a) there is only one source for the supply or service item;
 - (b) only one source is acceptable or suitable for the supply or service item; or
 - (c) the supply or service item must be compatible with current supplies or services.
- 3. § 18-4-307, MCA Cancellation of invitations for bids or requests for proposals. An invitation for bids, a request for proposals, or other solicitation may be cancelled or any or all bids or proposals may be rejected in whole or in part, as may be specified in the solicitation, when it is in the best interests of the state. The reasons therefor must be made part of the contract file.

Legal Reference: § 18-4-121, et seq., MCA Montana Procurement Act

§ 18-4-303, MCA
Sole Source Procurement--records
§ 18-4-307, MCA
Competitive Sealed Bidding
Sole Source Procurement--records
Cancellation of invitations for bids or

requests for proposals

2.5.604, ARM Sole Source Procurement

Policy History:

Adopted on: May 15, 2001 Revised on: July 17, 2007 Revised on: January 18, 2011

Cascade School District

Adopted on: Reviewed on: Revised on:

6 NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

Page 1 of 2

The District supports the use of therapy dogs and other therapy animals by teachers or other qualified school personnel ("Owner") for the benefit of its students, subject to the conditions of this policy.

Therapy Animals

Therapy dogs and other therapy animals are family pets that are trained and registered or certified through therapy organizations. They are only half of the therapy team. The handler is the other half. Therapy teams enter the school by invitation or prior approval.

A therapy animal is not a service animal, and unlike a service animal, a therapy animal does not assist a person with a disability with activities of daily living, nor does it accompany a person with a disability at all times. Therapy animals do not have legal rights.

Requirements of Therapy Animals and User/Owners

Individuals with disabilities using therapy or companion animals are responsible for their animals at all times and must comply with the following requirements:

Request: An Owner must submit a written request to the Superintendent. The request must be renewed each school year or whenever a different therapy animal will be used.

Registration, Training and Certification: The Owner must register the therapy animal and provide documentation of the registration, certification, and training to the Superintendent. The registration and certification must remain current at all times.

Health and Vaccination: The therapy animal must be clean, well groomed, in good health, house broken, and immunized against diseases common to dogs. The Owner must submit proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the therapy animal's current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian.

Control: A therapy animal must be under the control of the "Owner", at all times, through the use of a leash or other tether unless the use of a leash or other tether would interfere with the therapy animals' safe, effective performance of its work or tasks.

Identification: The therapy animals must wear appropriate visible identification that identifies in writing that the animal is a therapy animal.

Behavior: The Owner must take responsibility for the behavior of the animal in private and public places, and for due care and diligence in the use of the animal on school district property.

Health and Safety: The therapy animal must not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at the school.

8426

8426

Supervision and Care of Therapy Animals: The Owner is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the therapy dog, including any feeding, exercising, and clean-up while the animal is in the school building or on school property. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a therapy animal.

Authorized Areas: The Owner shall only allow the therapy animal to be in areas in school buildings or on school property that are authorized by the school administrators.

Insurance: The Owner must submit a copy of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy animal while on school property.

Exclusion or Removal from School. A therapy animal may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

- (1) A handler does not have control of the therapy animal;
- (2) The therapy animal is not house broken;
- (3) The therapy animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
- (4) The animal's presence otherwise interferes with the educational process.

The Owner shall be required to remove the therapy animal from school premises immediately upon such a determination.

Allergic Reactions. If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom in which a therapy animal is permitted, and suffers an allergic reaction to the therapy animal, the Owner of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator.

Damages to School Property and Injuries: The Owner of a therapy animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the therapy animal.

Therapy Animals in Training; This policy shall also be applicable to therapy animals in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.

Cascade School District

Request to use Therapy Animal in School

8426F

Board Policy 8426 governs the use of therapy animals in school. The request shall be submitted to the Superintendent for approval each school year and/or whenever the Owner wishes to use a different therapy animal.

Name of Owner:		
Name of Handler (if different from Ow	ner):	
Owner address: Handler address (if different from Own		
Handler address (if different from Own	ner):	
Owner email:		
Handler email (if different from Owner	f):	
Building(s) where animal will be used:		
Please describe, in detail, what the anim	nal will do at the school.	
Date:	Owner Phone Numb	per:
	Handler Phone Num	nber:
Name of Therapy Animal:		
Please attach the following to this form Proof of registration as a therapy anima Such registration shall be from an orga animal and handler prior to registration	al handler with the individualization that requires an	evaluation of the therapy
Proof from a licensed veterinarian that immunized against diseases common to current and up to date at all times.		
Proof of licensure from the local licens	ing authority.	
Copy of an insurance policy that provide therapy animal while the two are on sch	, ,	he work of the handler and
Owner's Signature: Handler's Signature (if different from C		Date:
Handler's Signature (if different from C	Jwner):	Date:
Superintendent's Signature:		Date:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

4330

Community Use of School Facilities

School facilities are available to the community for educational, civic, cultural, and other noncommercial uses consistent with the public interest, when such use will not interfere with the school program or school-sponsored activities. Use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses. Persons on school premises must abide by District conduct rules at all times.

Student and school-related organizations shall be granted the use of school facilities at no cost. Other organizations granted the use of school facilities shall pay fees and costs. The Superintendent will develop procedures to manage community use of school facilities, which will be reviewed and approved by the Board. Use of school facilities requires the Superintendent's approval and is subject to the procedures.

Administration will approve and schedule various uses of school facilities. A master calendar will be kept in the office for scheduling dates to avoid conflicts during the school year. Should a conflict arise, the District reserves the right to cancel an approved request when it is determined that the facilities are needed for school purposes. Requests for use of school facilities must be submitted to the Superintendent's office in advance of the event.

The School Facilities and Grounds Use and Liability Release Agreement can be obtained by contacting the District Office. The School Facilities and Grounds Use and Liability Release Agreement must be completed, signed, and returned to the District office prior to the use of the facilities or grounds.

Legal Reference: § 20-7-805, MCA Recreational use of school facilities secondary

Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free School Dist., 113 S.Ct.

2141

Policy History:

Adopted on: Reviewed on: Revised on:

SCHOOL FACILITIES/GROUNDS USE AND LIABILITY RELEASE AGREEMENT Cascade School District

Organization or Individual Requesting Facil	ity Use:	
Facility Requested:		
Date and Hours of Requested Use:		
Purpose of Use:		
Will there be an admission fee?	If so, how much?	

Premises and Conditions

Conditions of Facilities Use - Use of District facilities is conditioned upon the following covenants:

- 1. That no alcoholic beverages, tobacco, nicotine products, or other drugs are sold or consumed on the premises by the requesting organization or individual or any of its employees, patrons, agents, or members.
- 2. That no illegal games of chance or lotteries will be permitted.
- 3. That no functional alteration of the premises or functional changes in the use of such premises shall be made without specific written consent of the District.
- 4. That adequate supervision is provided by the requesting organization or individual to ensure proper care and use of District facilities.
- 5. The presence of weapons, including firearms, must be previously reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees in accordance with Montana law.

Rent and Deposit

Generally, there will not be a charge for the use of a school facility except when, 1) An admission is charged to the event conducted in the school, or 2) There is a private business profit motive in the school facility use. The requesting organization or individual agrees to pay the District, as rent for the premises and as payment for special services (if any) provided by the District, up to \$40.00/hour. The requesting organization or individual shall be responsible for the actual cost of repair or replacement, including costs, disbursements, and expenses, resulting while it has use of the premises. To use the building for events for a full day, up to \$650.00 + custodial; half day up to \$325.00, to be paid in advance at the discretion of Administration.

Indemnification

The requesting organization or individual, by signature below, hereby guarantees that the organization shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the District and any of its employees or agents, from any liability, expenses, costs (including attorney's fees), damages, and/or losses arising out of injury or death to any person or persons or damage to any property of any kind in connection with the organization or individual's use of the District facility, which are not the result of fraud, willful injury to a person or property, or willful or negligent violation of a law on the part of the School District. The undersigned organization or individual accepts and assumes all such risks and hazards and does hereby release the School District from any and all liability including, but not limited to bodily injury, personal injury, and/or property damage which are not the result of fraud committed, willful injury to a person or property, or willful or negligent violation of a law on the part of the School District.

Insurance

The user of the facility shall provide the District with a certificate of insurance and endorsement to their property and liability policy. Said certificate and policy endorsement shall name the District as an additional insured. The certificate and policy shall show coverage for comprehensive general liability insurance for injuries to or death of any person or damage to or loss of property arising out of or in any way resulting from the described use of the facility. The insurance shall provide for amounts not less than \$1,000,000 for bodily injury or death to any one person or resulting from any one accident, and \$1,000,000 for property damage in any one accident or the policy may provide a combined single limit for bodily

injury and property damage for \$1,000,000. The certificate shall contain a provision that the insurer not cancel or refuse to renew without giving the District written notice at least 10 days before the effective date of the cancellation or non-renewal.

Special Events Coverage

The district requires the event holder to purchase a special event liability policy for the event, and to name the district as an additional insured on the policy. The event holder should provide the district with a certificate insurance outlining the coverage limits and that the district has been named as an additional insured on the policy. Minimum coverage limits of \$1,000,0000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 aggregate should be purchased.

Assumption of Risk

The requesting organization agrees to indemnify, release and hold harmless the District, inclusive of its employees, administration, board of trustees, and insurers form any and all civil liability involving any and all forms of injury except those that may arise as a result of willful, wanton or reckless conduct by the District or its agents adding unwarranted danger to participation in such event.

The requesting organization understands that the District will take all reasonable precautions to insure the risk of injury to individuals accessing the facilities or grounds is minimized. However, even though these precautions are taken there is still a chance of injury, and in rare instances even severe injury and death. The requesting organization understands the risks involved.

The School District DOES NOT provide medical insurance for any individuals who choose to access and use the facilities.

Non-Discrimination

The District will consider requests for use of district facilities for political purposes and activity in accordance with Montanan law. The requesting organization or individual agrees to abide by non-discrimination clauses as contained in the Montana Human Rights Act and the Governmental Code of Fair Practices.

District's Rights

The District reserves the right to cancel this Agreement, when it is determined by the District that the facilities are needed for school purposes.

and in the same of purposes.		
DATED this day of		, 20
Cascade School District:		Requesting Organization or Individual:
By	$By_{\underline{\ }}$	
		Address
		Phone
Additional Obligations:		

Revised on: October 16, 2012, 10/17/17



CASCADE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Building and Facility Use Agreement Form

School Facilities may be used for various school sponsored and community activities. Facilities may be used during non-school hours with proper approval and organization. Use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses. All requests must be received at least one week prior to the event.

Representative:
Email:
tup Time:
·
please be specific:
to be opened/closed if outside of school hours:ed with business office staff during business hours.) , hereby make request for use of facilities as outlined and agree e District reserves the right to cancel this Agreement, when it is ourposes. Date//
istrators No Will District Supervision be required? Yes No equirements of NCPA and Policy 5122***: Yes No No No Yes Yes No Yes Yes No Yes Yes No Yes
ApprovedDenied
ApprovedDenied
Approved Denied

^{*}The District no longer loans or rents out school equipment, such as tables and chairs, for private events or use.

^{**} Custodians are available for school sanctioned events only. Nonsanctioned and community events are responsible for their own set up and clean up, including trash removal. Custodial services for nonsanctioned events are \$25-\$40/hr.

^{***} The National Child Protection Act of 1993 and School Board Policy 5122F requires a federal criminal history background check to determine the fitness of an employee, volunteer, vendor or contractor, or any person with unsupervised access to children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities.

PERSONNEL 5460
Page 1 of 2

Electronic Resources and Social Networking

The _____ School District recognizes that an effective public education system develops students who are globally aware, civically engaged, and capable of managing their lives and careers. The District also believes that students need to be proficient users of information, media, and technology to succeed in a digital world.

Public school employees are held to a high standard of behavior. The Montana Department of Education *Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics* requires District staff to maintain a professional relationship with each student, both in and outside the classroom. The District encourages all staff to read and become familiar with the Code of Ethics.

Therefore, the ______ School District will use electronic resources as a powerful and compelling means for students to learn core subjects and applied skills in relevant and rigorous ways. It is the District's goal to provide students with rich and ample opportunities to use technology for important purposes in schools just as individuals in workplaces and other real life settings. The District's technology will enable educators and students to communicate, learn, share, collaborate and create, to think and solve problems, to manage their work and to take ownership of their lives.

The School Board discourages—school district staff shall not socialize from socializing with students on social networking websites (during school or out-of-school) in a manner contrary to this policy. Staff are reminded that the same relationship, exchange, interaction, information, or behavior that would be unacceptable in a non-technological medium, is unacceptable when done through the use of technology. In fact, due to the vastly increased potential audience digital dissemination presents, extra caution must be exercised by staff to ensure they don't cross the line of acceptability.

What in other mediums of expression could remain private opinions, when expressed by staff on a social networking website, have the potential to be disseminated far beyond the speaker's desire or intention, and could undermine the public perception of fitness of the individual to educate students, and thus undermine teaching effectiveness. In this way, the effect of the expression and publication of such opinions could potentially lead to disciplinary action being taken against the staff member, up to and including termination or nonrenewal of the contract of employment.

Accessing social networking websites for individual use during school hours is prohibited, unless asked to do so by administration. Except in an emergency situation, staff shall not access social networking sites using district equipment or personal equipment, including during breaks or

preparation periods. All school district employees who participate in social networking websites, shall not post any school district data, documents, photographs, logos, or other district owned or created information on any website. Further, the posting of any private or confidential school district material on such websites is strictly prohibited.

The Board directs the Superintendent or his/her designee to create strong electronic educational systems that support innovative teaching and learning, to provide appropriate staff development opportunities and to develop procedures to support this policy.

Staff should contact the administration if they would like to establish an educational related social media presence.

Note: What is and is not acceptable staff/student interaction on social networking sites is an education community decision, and will vary from district to district. As a general rule, the greater the degree of real-life connections and interactivity between staff and students that occur in the community, the greater the tolerance will be for virtual connections and interactivity. Use the following list to help guide discussions with staff to determine which should be included in the policy and with what modifications/stipulations. It is as important to include in the policy what is permitted as what is not permitted. The discussions may elicit additional bullets to include in the policy.

- Sharing personal landline or cell phone numbers with students;
- Text messaging students;
- Emailing students other than through and to school controlled and monitored accounts;
- Soliciting students as friends or contacts on social networking sites;
- Accepting the solicitation of students as friends or contacts on social networking sites;
- Creation of administratively approved and sanctioned "groups" on social networking sites that permit the broadcast of information without granting students access to staff member's personal information;
- Sharing with student's access information to personal websites or other media through which the staff member would share personal information and occurrences.

Cross Reference: 5015 Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation

5223 Personal Conduct 5255 Disciplinary Action

Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics

Policy History:

Adopted on: Reviewed on: Revised on: