

Billings School District 2

STUDENTS

Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Code of Conduct

Student Dress

The District recognizes that a student's choice of dress and grooming habits demonstrates personal style and preference. The District has the responsibility to ensure appropriate conditions for learning while protecting the health and safety of its student body. Even though the schools will allow a wide variety of clothing styles, dress and grooming must not substantially disrupt the educational process of the school or create a health or safety hazard for students, staff, or others.

Building administrators shall establish written dress codes that will be distributed and explained to students at the beginning of each school year. Additional dress codes may be established by classroom teachers, coaches, and activity sponsors, with approval from the building administrator. Teachers, coaches, and sponsors shall put their dress codes in writing and distribute them to the students, athletes, or activity participants at the beginning of the school year and/or prior to the starting date of the activity or sport.

In order to maintain a positive and safe learning environment, students are prohibited from the following while on school premises or while attending school functions or activities:

1. Wearing or possessing clothing, jewelry, accessories or other personal materials, possessing or using electronic equipment (such as pagers, cell or camera phones, or other communication devices), or grooming in a manner which by its nature denotes membership in a group or gang advocating threats, violence, intimidation, drugs, illegal activities, or any other disruptive behavior.
2. Implying gang membership or affiliation by written communication, marks, drawing, paint, design or emblem upon any school property, personal property, or on one's person.
3. Wearing clothing that carries derogatory, obscene, or sexually suggestive statements, connotations, or graphics; advertises alcohol, tobacco, or drugs; advertises weapons or violence; or endorses or promotes any illegal activity.
4. Wearing clothing or accessories that are distracting to the learning process, unsafe, unhealthy, or disruptive.

It is the responsibility of building administration to determine the appropriateness of student clothing and accessories, especially as clothing, apparel, accessories, and particularly group or gang-related ones may vary from year to year.

For the purpose of this Policy, a gang is an unauthorized group of three or more people who demonstrate a majority of the following traits:

1. Exhibit antisocial behavior often associated with crime or a threat to the community;
2. Interact together to the exclusion of others;
3. Claim a territory or area;
4. Have a name;
5. Have rivals/enemies;
6. Create an atmosphere in which the well-being of students, staff, or any other person is adversely affected by undue pressure, behavior, harassment, intimidation, bullying, overt gestures, or threat of violence.

School Uniforms

The Board authorizes any school to choose a school uniform. The decision to select a school uniform requires a two-thirds vote of the responsible adult for all students in the school at the time of the vote (one adult vote per student).

The Board requires that the building administrator establish a procedure for selecting approved items of attire, for addressing any exceptions to an adopted procedure, and for making a financial assistance provision for needy students.

Discipline

Students whose dress does not conform with this policy, and other District procedures, rules, or handbooks, will be referred to a building administrator for disciplinary action.

Cross References:

Number	Title
3200	Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Code of Conduct
3201	Student Freedom of Expression
3202	Student Publications
3203	Student Dress
3203-P1	Student Dress – Gang Activity or Association and Extracurricular Activities
3204	Searches and Seizures
3204-P1	Searches of Students and Their Property
3204-P2	Video Surveillance
3204-P3	Video Surveillance – School Buses, Vehicles, School Buildings and Grounds
3205	District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks for Students
3205-P1	District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks for Students
3210	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
3210-F1	Form: Billings Public Schools – Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Incident Reporting Form

Number	Title
3220	Equal Educational Opportunity (use reporting Form 3210-F1)
3230	Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment (use reporting Form 3210-F1)
3235	Student Drug and Chemical Use and Abuse
3240	Tobacco Free Schools
3250	Gun-Free Schools
3255	Bomb Threats and Threats of Hazardous Substances
1700	Uniform Complaint Procedure

Legal References:

§ 20-5-101, MCA	Admittance of child to school
§ 20-5-102, MCA	Compulsory enrollment and excuses
§ 20-5-103, MCA	Compulsory attendance and excuses
§ 20-5-201, MCA	Duties and sanctions
§ 20-5-202, MCA	Suspension and expulsion
§ 20-4-302, MCA	Discipline and punishment of pupils – definition of corporal punishment

Tinker v. Des Moines Ind. Sch. Dist., 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969)

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