

Billings School District 2

STUDENTS

Student Dress

Student Dress – Gang Activity or Association

The Billings Public School System recognizes that a student's choice of dress and grooming habits demonstrates personal style and preference. The District has the responsibility to insure proper and appropriate conditions for learning along with 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 materially or substantially disrupt the educational process of the school or create a health or safety hazard for students, staff, employees or others.

Elementary, middle, and high schools will establish written dress codes that will be distributed and/or explained to students at the beginning of each school year. Additional dress codes may be established by classroom teachers with approval from the building administrator.

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

1. Wearing or possessing clothing, jewelry, accessories and other personal materials, 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; 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, operating under administrative guidelines, to determine the appropriateness of student clothing and accessories, especially as clothing, apparel, accessories and particularly group or gang related ones may vary and change from year to year.

Gang Activity or Association

For the purpose of this procedure, 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; and
6. Create an atmosphere in which the well-being of students, staff, or any other person is adversely affected by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gestures or threat of violence.

Extracurricular Activities

Students involved in extracurricular activities will adhere to the coaches' or sponsors' dress codes, as long as the codes are deemed reasonable by school administrator(s). Coaches or sponsors must establish written dress codes and distribute them to each participant prior to the start of the activity.

Discipline

Students whose dress does not conform with Billings Public Schools Policy #3203 will be referred to a building administrator for appropriate disciplinary action.

Implementing Policy 3203 Student Dress

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
3220	Equal Educational Opportunity (use reporting Form 3210-F1)
3230	Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment (use reporting Form 3210-F1)

Number	Title
3235	Student Drug and Chemical Use and Abuse
3240	Tobacco Free Schools
3250	Gun-Free Schools
3255	Bomb Threats and Threats of Hazardous Substances
6430	Development of Administrative Procedures
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)

Procedure History:

Issued by Superintendent on: February 28, 2005
 Presented to Board on: March 21, 2005
 Revised on: December 16, 2013