



WHITTIER ELEMENTARY
BOZEMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS K-5
STUDENT HANDBOOK
BSD7

To Students and Parents:

The Bozeman Public Schools K-5 Student Handbook contains information that students and parents are likely to need during the school year. The handbook is organized alphabetically by topic. Throughout the handbook, the term “the student’s parent” is used to refer to the parent, legal guardian, or other person who has agreed to assume school-related responsibility for a student.

The Student Handbook is designed to be in harmony with Board policy. Please be aware that this document is updated annually, while policy adoption and revision is an ongoing process. Therefore, any changes in policy that affect student handbook provisions will be made available to students and parents through individual school newsletters and monthly community newsletters from the Superintendent. These changes will generally supersede provisions found in this handbook that have been made obsolete by newly adopted policy.

Please note that references to policy codes are included to help parents confirm current policy.

In case of conflict between Board Policy or any provisions of student handbooks, the provisions in the student handbooks are to be followed.

The Bozeman School District’s policies can be found on the district website at: [Our District Policies](#).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EQUAL EDUCATION, NONDISCRIMINATION	4
RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION	4
RIGHTS CONCERNING SCHOOL RECORDS	4
ATTENDANCE	5
CAFETERIA SERVICES	6
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / CONDITIONS	7
COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS / PARENTS	8
COMPUTER RESOURCES	8
CONDUCT	8
CORPORAL PUNISHMENT	10
COUNSELING	10
DISTANCE LEARNING and MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY	10
DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL	11
DRESS and GROOMING	11
ELECTRONIC DEVICES	11
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS	12
FEES	12

FIREARMS & WEAPONS	<u>13</u>
FUND-RAISING	<u>14</u>
GRADING GUIDELINES	<u>14</u>
HOMEWORK	<u>15</u>
IMMUNIZATION	<u>15</u>
LAW ENFORCEMENT	<u>16</u>
MEDICINE AT SCHOOL	<u>16</u>
PARENT INVOLVEMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES, & RIGHTS	<u>17</u>
PRAYER	<u>17</u>
PROMOTION AND RETENTION	<u>17</u>
PROTECTION OF STUDENT RIGHTS	<u>18</u>
RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL	<u>18</u>
RELIGIOUS PRACTICES	<u>20</u>
REPORT CARDS, PROGRESS REPORTS, & CONFERENCES	<u>18</u>
SAFETY	<u>19</u>
SEARCHES	<u>20</u>
SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 ("SECTION 504")	<u>21</u>
SEXUAL HARASSMENT / SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION	<u>21</u>
BULLYING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/HAZING	<u>23</u>
SPECIAL EDUCATION	<u>23</u>
STUDENT RECORDS	<u>24</u>
STUDENT SCHEDULES	<u>25</u>
TEXTBOOKS	<u>25</u>
TRANSPORTATION	<u>25</u>
VIDEOTAPING OF STUDENTS	<u>26</u>
VISITORS	<u>26</u>
INSERT MISSION, VISION, ETC HERE	

EQUAL EDUCATION, NONDISCRIMINATION

Board Policy 3210

The District will make equal educational opportunities available for all students without regard to race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, ethnicity, language barrier, religious belief, physical or mental handicap or disability, economic or social condition, actual or potential marital or parental status. No student will be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, or advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Board Policy 3600

“Regarding student records, federal law requires that ‘directory information’ on my child be released by the District to anyone who requests it unless I object in writing to the release of this information. This includes release of directory information to military recruiters and post-secondary institutions. This objection must be filed, within ten school days, of the time this handbook was given to my child. Directory information ordinarily includes the student’s Student’s name, Address, Telephone listing, Electronic mail address, Photograph (including electronic version), Date and place of birth, Major field of study, Dates of attendance, Grade level, Enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate; full-time or part-time), Participation in officially recognized activities and sports, Weight and height of members of athletic teams, Degrees, Honors and awards received, Most recent educational agency or institution attended.

This information needs to be consistent with Policy 3600P, 3600F1, and 3600F2.

In exercising my right to limit release of this information, I have completed the Student Directory Information Notification on the All-in-One Form and returned it to the school.

RIGHTS CONCERNING A STUDENTS SCHOOL RECORDS

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents/guardians and students over eighteen (18) years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and copy the student’s education records, within a reasonable time from the day the District receives a request for access.
2. The right to request amendment of the student’s education records which the parent(s)/guardian(s) or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, irrelevant, or improper.
3. The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA or state law authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.
5. The right to prohibit the release of directory information concerning the parent’s/ guardian’s child.
6. The right to request that information not be released to military recruiters and/or institutions of higher education.

7. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education, concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

ATTENDANCE

Board Policy 3122

Regular school attendance is essential for the student to make the most of his or her education — to benefit from teacher-led activities, to build each day’s learning on that of the previous day, and to grow as an individual. The District permits resident students of school age who are enrolled in a nonpublic or home school to enroll part-time in a District school at the parent’s request.

- A student between the ages of 7 and 16 must attend school unless the student is otherwise legally exempted or excused. A student who voluntarily attends or enrolls after his or her sixteenth birthday is required to attend each school day.
- A student who persistently does not attend school for the day or any part of the school day equivalent to the length of one class period is truant and may be subject to disciplinary action. Truancy may also result in assessment of a penalty by a court of law against the student and his or her parents. The District’s Attendance Officer may request a meeting with the truant student’s parent or legal guardian to develop a truancy plan in the event of continued truancy.
- The principal or designee will attempt to contact a student’s parent, guardian, or legal custodian by the end of the school day in order to inform him or her of the student’s absence if no excuse has been offered. See Policy 3122, 3122P and 3123.

When a student is absent from school, the parent/guardian must call the school any time after 7:30 a.m. to notify the school of the absence or at least 30 minutes before the start of the student’s school day if enrolled on a part-time basis. If the parent/guardian does not call, the district personnel will call home when an absence has occurred. If contact has been made with the parent/guardian, it will not be necessary for the parent/guardian to send a written excuse with the student upon his/her returning to school, unless requested by the administration. If no contact was made, the student will have one (1) day to bring a note, or the absence will be unexcused.

A student who is absent for any reason other than an unexcused absence should promptly make up specific assignments missed and/or complete additional in-depth student assigned by the teacher. A student who does not make up assigned work within the time allotted by the teacher will receive a grade of zero for the assignment.

Types of absences

Excused Absences

Excused absences under the law are: illness, bereavement, parent request due to instruction regarding human sexuality, parent excuse from instruction/assemblies/events that offend the parent's beliefs or practices,

Tardiness

Students arriving after 8:15 will need to check in with the Office and marked tardy. Students who are more than 45 minutes late will be considered absent for the morning.

Human Sexuality Instruction Absence

A student may be absent from a class period, assembly, school function, or other instruction at the request of a parent/guardian/other person responsible for care when the subject matter is related to human sexuality. These absences do not count toward the student's discretionary 10-day total. The District will provide parents/guardians with at least 48-hours notice before such instruction is scheduled to occur.

CAFETERIA SERVICES

[Board Policy 8200](#)

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers students nutritionally balanced lunches daily. Free and reduced-price lunches are available based on financial need. Information about a student's participation is confidential. See the [Food Services link](#) on the district webpage to apply.

Lunch prices are located on the [Food Services](#) website.

CHILD SAFETY GPS AND AUDIO CHILD TRACKING/MONITORING SYSTEMS

Parents and students are expressly prohibited from using covert means to listen-in or make a recording (audio or video) of any meeting or activity at school. This includes placing recording devices, or other devices with one- or two-way audio communication technology (i.e., technology that allows a person off-site to listen to live conversations and sounds taking place in the location where the device is located), within a student's book bag/backpack, on the student's person or otherwise in an area capable of listening in or recording without express written consent of the Superintendent. Any requests to place a recording device or other device with one- or two-way audio communication technology within a student's book bag/backpack or on a student's person shall be submitted, in writing, to the Superintendent along with an explanation of why such recording is necessary. The Superintendent or a designee shall notify the parent(s), in writing, whether such request is denied or granted within five (5) school days. Where consent has been given by the Superintendent, the Principal must be given access by the parent to be a school guardian on the device. This will ensure any "Listen-In" feature is disabled during school hours due to privacy concerns.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES / CONDITIONS

Board Policy 3417

The District shall manage common communicable diseases in accordance with DPHHS guidelines and communicable diseases control rules. If a student develops symptoms of any reportable communicable or infectious illness as defined while at school, the responsible school officials shall do the following:

- (a) isolate the student immediately from other students or staff; and
- (b) inform the parent or guardian as soon as possible about the illness and request him or her to pick up the student.; and
- (c) consult with a physician, other qualified medical professional, or the local county health authority to determine if the case should be reported to the local health officer.

Students who express feelings of illness at school may be referred to a school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board and may be sent home as soon as a parent or person designated on a student's emergency medical authorization form has been notified. The District may temporarily exclude from onsite school attendance a student who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease that is readily transmitted in a school setting. Offsite instruction will be provided during the period of absence in accordance with Policy 2050. The District reserves the right to require a statement from a student's primary care provider authorizing a student's return to onsite instruction.

When information is received by a staff member or a volunteer that a student is afflicted with a serious communicable disease, the staff member or volunteer shall promptly notify a school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board to determine appropriate measures to be taken to protect student and staff health and safety. A school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board, after consultation with and on advice of public health officials, shall determine which additional staff members, if any, have need to know of the affected student's condition.

All students, staff, and others present in the any school building shall engage in hand hygiene at the following times, which include but are not limited to:

- (a) Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- (b) Before and after preparing, eating, or handling food or drinks
- (c) Before and after administering medication or screening temperature
- (d) After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- (e) After recess
- (f) After handling garbage
- (g) After assisting students with handwashing
- (h) After use of the restroom

Hand hygiene includes but is not limited to washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.

Staff members shall supervise children when they use hand sanitizer and soap to prevent ingestion. Staff members shall place grade level appropriate posters describing handwashing steps near sinks.

Further information may be found at policy 3417 in the District's Policy Manual

COMPLAINTS BY STUDENTS / PARENTS

Board Policy 1700

Usually student or parent complaints or concerns can be addressed simply — by a phone call or a conference with the teacher. For those complaints and concerns that cannot be handled so easily, the District has adopted a Uniform Complaint Procedure policy for most complaints with the exception of complaints/concerns involving challenges to educational material, those governed by a specified procedure in state or federal law that supersedes a uniform grievance process, and those about sex discrimination and/or disability discrimination. A written copy of the Uniform Complaint Procedure can be obtained at the Superintendent's office.

If a student or parent believes that the Board, its employees, or agents have violated their rights, he or she may file a written complaint with any District Principal or Supervisor under the applicable grievance procedure. If still unresolved, the matter generally may be referred to the Superintendent. Under some circumstances, the District provides for the complaint to be presented to the Board of Trustees in the event the matter cannot be resolved at the administrative level.

Some complaints require different procedures. Any building office or the Superintendent's office can provide information regarding specific processes for filing complaints.

Students shall use the Title IX Grievance Procedure to address complaints/concerns about sex discrimination. A copy of the Title IX Grievance Procedures can be obtained on the District's [website](#) or any District or school office or by contacting the Title IX Coordinator.

Students shall use the Section 504 Grievance Procedure to address complaints/concerns about disability discrimination. A copy of the Section 504 Grievance Procedures can be obtained on the [District's website](#) or any District or school office or by contacting the [Director of Special Education and Student Health/504 Coordinator](#).

COMPUTER RESOURCES

[Board Policy 3612](#)

To prepare students for an increasingly computerized society, the District has made a substantial investment in computer technology for instructional purposes. Use of these resources is restricted to students working under a teacher's supervision and for approved purposes only. Students and parents will be asked to sign a user agreement (separate from this handbook) regarding use of these resources; violations of this agreement may result in withdrawal of privileges and other disciplinary action. Students and parents should be aware that electronic communications — e-mail — using District computers are not private and may be monitored by District staff.

[For additional information, see policy 3612, 3612P]

CONDUCT

[Board Policy 3200](#); [Board Policy 3240](#)

In order for students to take advantage of available learning opportunities and to be productive members of our campus community, each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy — even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet District or building standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all building and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of other students, teachers, and other District staff.

- Respect the property of others, including District property and facilities.
- Cooperate with or assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.

The Board grants authority to a teacher or principal to hold a student to strict accountability for disorderly conduct in a school building, on property owned or leased by a school district, on a school bus, on the way to or from school, or during intermission or recess.

Disciplinary action may be taken against any student guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to instances set forth below:

- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling tobacco products, and alternative nicotine and vapor products as defined in 16-11-302, MCA.
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages, including powdered alcohol. Students who may be under the influence of alcohol will not be permitted to attend school functions and will be treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
- Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling drug paraphernalia, illegal drugs, controlled substances, or any substance which is represented to be or looks like a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, depressant, or intoxicant of any kind, including such substances that contain chemicals which produce the same effect of illegal substances including but not limited to Spice and K2. Students who may be under the influence of such substances will not be permitted to attend school functions and will be treated as though they had drugs in their possession.
- Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring a firearm or other weapon in violation of policy 3311.
- Using, possessing, controlling, or transferring any object that reasonably could be considered or used as a weapon as referred to in policy 3311.
- Disobeying directives from staff members or school officials or disobeying rules, violating state or federal law, or not honoring regulations governing student conduct.
- Using violence, force, noise, coercion, threats, intimidation, fear, or other comparable conduct toward anyone or urging other students to engage in such conduct **unless such force is determined, following investigation, to be for self-defense or defense of others as defined by law.**
-
- Causing or attempting to cause damage to, or stealing or attempting to steal, school property or another person's property.
- Engaging in any activity that constitutes an interference with school purposes or an educational function or any other disruptive activity.
- Unexcused absenteeism. Truancy statutes and Board policy will be utilized for chronic and habitual truants.
- Intimidation, harassment, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, hazing or bullying; or retaliation against any person who alleged misconduct under Policy 3225 or 3226 or participated in an investigation into alleged misconduct under Policy 3225 or 3226.
- Defaces or damages any school building, school grounds, furniture, equipment, or book belonging to the district.
- Forging any signature or making any false entry or attempting to authorize any document used or intended to be used in connection with the operation of a school.
- Records or causes to be recorded a conversation by use of a hidden electronic or mechanical device which may include any combination of audio or video that reproduces a human conversation without the knowledge of all parties to the conversation.

- Violating a “no contact agreement” or violating court orders including restraining orders obtained by other students or staff.
- Engaging in academic misconduct which may include but is not limited to: cheating, unauthorized sharing of exam responses or graded assignment work; plagiarism, accessing websites or electronic resources without authorization to complete assigned coursework, and any other act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student.

These grounds stated above for disciplinary action apply whenever a student’s conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to the circumstances set forth below:]

- On school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any other time when school is being used by a school group.
- Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school.
- Travel to and from school or a school activity, function, or event.
- Anywhere conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of bullying of a staff member or student, or an interference with school purposes or an educational function.

Disciplinary Measures
Board Policy 3310

Disciplinary measures include but are not limited to:

- Expulsion
- Suspension
- Detention, including Saturday school
- Clean-up duty
- Loss of student privileges
- Loss of bus privileges
- Notification to juvenile authorities and/or police
- Restitution for damages to school property

No District employee or person engaged by the District may inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment on a student. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force District personnel are permitted to use as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or other persons or for the purpose of self-defense.

Non-Disciplinary Measures

The Superintendent or designee is authorized to assign a student to non-disciplinary offsite instruction pending the results of an investigation or for reasons related to the safety or well-being of students and staff. During the period of non-disciplinary offsite instruction, the student will be permitted to complete all assigned schoolwork for full credit. The assignment of non-disciplinary offsite instruction does not preclude the Superintendent or designee from disciplining a student who has, after investigation, been found to have violated a School District policy, rule, or handbook provision.

Delegation of Authority

The Board grants authority to any teacher and to any other school personnel to impose on students under their charge any disciplinary measure, other than suspension or expulsion, corporal punishment, or

in-school suspension, that is appropriate and in accordance with policies and rules on student discipline. The Board authorizes teachers to remove students from classrooms for disruptive behavior.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Board Policy 3200

The District recognizes fully that all students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected under federal and state constitutions and law for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. The District expects students to exercise these rights reasonably and to avoid violating the rights of others. The District may impose disciplinary measures whenever students violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules.

All students who attend the district's schools shall comply with the written policies, rules and regulations of the schools, shall pursue the required course of studies, and shall submit to the authority of teachers, principal and superintendent of the schools.

All students are subject to the control and authority of the teachers, principal and superintendent while in school or on premises, on the way to and from school, or during intermission or recess.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

No person who is employed or engaged by the District may inflict or cause to be inflicted corporal punishment on a student. Corporal punishment does not include, and district personnel are permitted to use, reasonable force as needed to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense.

COUNSELING

Board Policy 2140

Personal Counseling and Social/Emotional Supports

The school counselor is available to assist students with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, or emotional issues, or substance abuse. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address these concerns. At the K-5 level Counselors teach lessons on a variety of subjects including bullying prevention, safe and unsafe touch, coping strategies, and healthy friendships that align with American School Counselor Association guidelines.

Please note: The school will not conduct a psychological examination, test, or treatment without first obtaining the parent's written consent, unless required by state or federal law for special education purposes.

DISTANCE LEARNING and MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY

Board Policy 2170

The District recognizes that the District and students may have a need for greater flexibility in the educational program due to funding, teacher availability, individual learning styles, health conditions, employment responsibilities, lack of success in traditional school environments or a desire for students to accelerate their learning and work at the college level before leaving high school. The District acknowledges that online learning solutions offered by the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) may fulfill these needs.

MTDA is authorized by Montana law to charge fees for students to access offered courses. The District shall pay fees for students enrolled in an MTDA class that is required for graduation as specified in District policy or the student handbook or as determined by the Superintendent or designee. The District may charge students a reasonable fee for an MTDA course or activity not required for graduation. The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to waive the fee in cases of financial hardship. Any courses the District does not pay for will not be included in the ANB calculation in accordance with Policy 3121.

The Superintendent or designee, shall be responsible for developing procedures for the online learning program that address related topics that may include but are not limited to specification and determination of graduation requirements and fee collection for classes that are not required.

Further, the online learning solutions providers ensure that:

- A. Online course providers are accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation program or agency or are approved and endorsed by the Montana Office of Public Instruction.
- B. Qualified district staff provides information and guidance to students and parents regarding the selection of appropriate online courses to meet their needs, as well as a suitable number of online courses in which a student may enroll.
- C. The curriculum requirements of the state and school district are met.
- D. All online courses taken by the students will be approved by the administration in advance of enrollment.
- E. All teacher-led online courses include licensed, highly qualified teachers.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL

School Materials

[Board Policy 3222](#)

School publications distributed to students include grade-level/classroom newsletters. All school publications are under the supervision of a teacher, sponsor, and the principal.

Non-School Materials

[Board Policy 4331](#)

Written materials, handbills, photographs, pictures, petitions, films, tapes, posters, or other visual or auditory materials may not be posted, sold, circulated, or distributed on any school campus by a student or a non-student without the prior approval of the principal. Any student who posts material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action. Materials displayed without this approval will be removed.

DRESS AND GROOMING

[Board Policy 3224](#)

The District's dress code is established to teach grooming and hygiene, prevent disruption, and minimize safety hazards (refer to [Policy 3224](#)). Students and parents may determine a student's personal dress and grooming standards, provided that they comply with the following guidelines: Students may not wear any item that promotes drug use, weapon use, threats of violence, sexual harassment, bullying, or other intimidation, or violates another district policy, state, or federal law. The schools recognize that a students' choice of dress and grooming habits are a personal matter. Any concerns about students' dress

potentially impacting their health or safety or disrupting the learning environment should be brought directly to the principal.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

[Board Policy 3630](#)

Students need to ask permission in order to use school telephones. **Cell phone use by staff and students will conform to the principles set forth in the Bozeman Public School Policy [#3630](#).**

Cell phone and smart watch use is discouraged while at school. If it is necessary for your child to have a cell phone or smart watch at school, please make arrangements with your child's teacher prior to use. If cell phones or smart watches are brought to school, with teacher knowledge, they must remain turned off and in the child's desk or locker. Permission to use them is at the consent of the teacher.

- Parents who choose to provide and/or allow students to possess and use cell phones or smart watches acknowledge the risk of theft, loss and/or damage if they are brought to school. Bozeman Public Schools are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged phones and other electronic devices brought by students to school. Investigations into lost or stolen devices will be at the discretion of the building administrator.
- Parents making or receiving cell phone calls while on school grounds are expected to move to a location in the building or outside the school building where their conversation will not be a distraction to the learning environment. Please turn off all cell phones when visiting classrooms or attending school programs and performances.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

[Board Policy 3550](#)

Please note: Student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior — including consequences for misbehavior — that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the administrator will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

All students participating in extracurricular activities must have the following prior to the first practice:

- A required physical documented on the official Montana High School Association (MHSA) Physical Form (at least for all MHSA sanctioned activities).
- An Assumption of Risk statement signed by the parent.
- A Permission to Participate form (sign-off).
- An updated Medical information form.
- A Concussion Education and Compliance form signed by the student athlete and parent.

Details about extracurricular activity participation are outlined in the Student Activity Handbook.

The District recognizes that student clubs are a helpful resource for schools and supports their formation. Student clubs must complete an application process. The Superintendent or designee is delegated the authority to approve or deny club applications. The Administration shall approve and recognize curricular student clubs or organizations in a manner consistent with this Policy 3550 and any administrative procedure. Student-led and initiated groups of similar interests that do not meet the requirements to be an approved curricular student club shall be designated as non-curricular student groups. Students are permitted to informally gather at the school in accordance with Policy 3233.

FEES

Board Policy 3520

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided with state and local funds and are at no charge to a student. A student, however, is expected to provide their own pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

- Costs for materials for a class project that the student will keep.
- Membership dues in voluntary clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extra-curricular activities
- Personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel.
- Voluntarily purchased pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements, etc.
- Voluntarily purchased student accident insurance.
- Participation fees for extracurricular activities.
- Musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when uniforms are provided by the District.
- Personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student.
- Parking fees and student identification cards.
- Fees for lost, damaged, or overdue library books.
- Fees for driver training courses, if offered.
- Fees for optional courses offered for credit that require use of facilities not available on District premises.
- Summer school courses that are offered tuition free during the regular school year.
- Participation in Montana Digital Academy courses not required for graduation

Any required fee or deposit may be waived if the student and parent are unable to pay. Application for such a waiver may be made to the building principal.

A school district may withhold the grades, diploma, or transcripts of a current or former pupil who is responsible for the cost of school materials, unpaid lunch fees, or the loss or damage of school property until the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian satisfies the obligation.

FIREARMS AND WEAPONS

Board Policy 3311

It is the policy of the Bozeman Public School District to comply with the federal Gun Free Schools Act of 1994 and state law 20-5-202 (2), MCA, pertaining to students who bring a firearm to, or possess a firearm at, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the school district. In accordance with 20-5-202 (3), MCA, a teacher, superintendent, or a principal shall suspend immediately for good cause a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to, or possess a firearm at, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the school district. In accordance with Montana law, a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to, or possess a firearm at, any setting that is under the control and supervision of the school district must be expelled from school for a period of not less than 1 year unless modified in accordance with District policy. Any disciplinary hearing conducted under this section will honor due process rights outlined in state law and Policy 3311.

For the purposes of the firearms, the term “firearm” means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 921 (4).

Possession of Weapons other than Firearms

The District does not allow weapons on school property. Any student found to have possessed, used or transferred a weapon on school property will be subject to discipline in accordance with the District's discipline policy. For purposes of this section, "weapon" means any object, device, or instrument designed as a weapon or through its use is capable of threatening or producing bodily harm or which may be used to inflict self-injury, including but not limited to air guns; pellet guns; BB guns; fake (facsimile) weapons; all knives; blades; clubs; metal knuckles; numchucks (also known as nunchucks); throwing stars; explosives; fireworks; mace or other propellants; stun guns; ammunition; poisons; chains; arrows; and objects that have been modified to serve as a weapon

FUND-RAISING

[Board Policy 3530](#), [Board Policy 3535](#)

Student clubs or classes, outside organizations, and/or parent groups occasionally may be permitted to conduct fund-raising drives for approved school purposes. An application for permission must be made to the principal at least 30 days before the event.

Except as approved by Central Office, fund-raising by non-school groups is not permitted on school property.

GRADING GUIDELINES

Guideline 1: BSD7 course/grade level standards provide the basis for determining grades for each course and grade level

Guideline 2: The meaning of grades, whether letters or numbers, are derived from clear descriptions of performance standards (e.g., proficient, "2,").

Example:

- Students earn the grade when they hit the goal, which means a bell curve is not used.

Guideline 3: Behavior, attendance, participation, effort, attitude and other behaviors are not reflected in reported academic grades.

Example:

- Students may turn in late assignments to show that they have met learning goals. The teacher establishes the timeframes for late assignments.
- If late work completed demonstrates a student's proficiency, it should not take the final grade below the proficiency level.
- Separate grades indicating work ethic, effort, attitude, etc., are reported separately.
- A student's grade is never dependent upon the achievement or behavior of others (for example, when using cooperative grouping, each student receives an individual grade rather than a group grade).

Guideline 4: Grades are determined primarily on a combination of assessments (both unit and course/grade level) and performance tasks

Example:

- Rubrics, assessment checklists, and other types of scoring guides are used to provide formative feedback on various types of performance tasks (e.g., products, projects, and other performances). On any given learning goal, a grade assigned reflects the student's most recently consistent performance.

Guideline 5: Students are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate their progress related to the mastery of clearly articulated learning goals within timeframes established at the school and classroom level (i.e., end of units, end of quarter, end of semester).

Example:

- Resubmission of assignments and assessments is encouraged for students who are struggling to meet established learning goals.

Guideline 6: The most consistent level of achievement is used, with emphasis on the more recent performance when applicable.

Example:

- Zeros are not typically assigned for missing or incomplete work, and extra credit opportunities are provided only when relevant to demonstrating intended curriculum standards.

Guideline 7: Assessments that meet rigorous design criteria are used. Example: Appropriate tools (e.g., portfolios, checklists) to record and maintain evidence of achievement as well as evidence of work habits/life skills are used.

Guideline 8: Students understand in advance how their grades will be determined (age appropriate). Example: Students are involved in the assessment process, record keeping, and communicating their achievement and progress.

HOMEWORK

[Board Policy 2430](#)

Homework is a constructive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs and abilities of students. Purposeful assignments not only enhance student achievement, but also develop self-discipline and associated good working habits.

Teachers may give homework to students to aid in the student's educational development. Homework should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience, and should not be assigned for disciplinary purposes.

IMMUNIZATION

[Board Policy 3413](#)

Exemptions: Exemptions are an authorized reason for not being fully immunized but being allowed to attend school as per state law. Montana law does not allow a "personal exemption" but does allow medical and religious exemptions under [MCA 20-5-405](#).

Information on Medical and Religious Exemptions can be found under School Resources on the [MT DPHHS Immunizations website](#).

- **Medical Exemption:** Must be completed by a qualifying health care provider and done only in cases where there is a medical contraindication. The exemption will specify what vaccine(s) is being exempted and for how long.
- **Religious Exemption:** The parent must sign and return this form. Use of a Notary is no longer required. The form must indicate which vaccines are being exempted.

All students with exemptions are subject to the Gallatin County Exclusion Notice linked below.
[Immunization Exemption Letter](#)

LAW ENFORCEMENT

[Board Policy 4410](#)

Questioning of Students

When law enforcement officers or other lawful authorities wish to question or interview a student at school:

- The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and ask for an explanation of the need to question or interview the student.
- The principal may notify parents unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers it to be a valid objection.
- The principal may be present unless the interviewer raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection.
- The principal will cooperate fully regarding the conditions of the interview, if the questioning or interview is part of a child abuse investigation.

Students Taken into Custody

State law requires the District to permit a student to be taken into legal custody:

- To comply with an order of the juvenile court
- To comply with the laws of arrest.
- By a law enforcement officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct in need of supervision.
- By a probation officer if there is probable cause to believe the student has violated a condition of probation imposed by the juvenile court.
- To comply with a properly issued directive to take a student into custody.
- By an authorized representative of Child Protective Services, Montana Department of Protective and Regulatory Services, a law enforcement officer, or a juvenile probation officer, without a court order, under the conditions set out in the Montana Code relating to the student's physical health or safety.

Before a student is released to a law enforcement officer or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the officer's identity and, to the best of their ability, will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student.

The principal will immediately notify the Superintendent and will ordinarily attempt to notify the parent unless the officer or other authorized person raises what the principal considers to be a valid objection to notifying the parents. Because the principal does not have the authority to prevent or delay a custody action, notification will most likely be after the fact.

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

[Board Policy 3416](#)

A school employee who has successfully completed specific training in administration of medication, pursuant to written authorization of a physician or dentist and that of a parent, an individual who has

executed a caretaker relative educational authorization affidavit, or guardian, may administer medication to any student in the school or may delegate this task pursuant to Montana law.

A student who has authorization to possess and self-administer medication must have completed and filed, with the office, either a Montana Authorization to Carry and Self-Administer Medication or a Montana Authorization to Possess or Self-Administer Asthma, Severe Allergy, or Anaphylaxis Medication form.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND RIGHTS

Board Policy 2158

The District believes that the best educational result for each student occurs when all three partners are doing their best: the District staff, the student's parents, and the student. Such a partnership requires trust and much communication between home and school. To strengthen this partnership, every parent is urged to:

- Encourage their child to put a high priority on education and commit to making the most of the educational opportunities the school provides.
- Review the information in the student handbook with their child and sign and return the acknowledgment form(s) and the directory information notice. A parent with questions is encouraged to contact the building principal.
- Become familiar with all of the child's school activities and with the academic programs and course of study, including special programs, offered in the District. Discuss with the counselor or principal any questions, such as concerns about placement, assignment, or early graduation, and the options available to the child.
- Monitor the child's academic progress and contact teachers as needed **including to discuss homework, attendance, and discipline. Parents have the right to review their child's education records upon request.**
- Attend scheduled conferences and request additional conferences as needed. To schedule a telephone or in-person conference with a teacher, counselor, or principal, please call the school office at 406-522-6750 for an appointment. A teacher will usually arrange to return the call or meet with the parent during their conference period or at a mutually convenient time before or after school.
- Exercise the right to review teaching materials, textbooks, and other aids, and to examine tests that have been administered to their child. [See **Protection of Student Rights** on page 19]
- Access District policies, handbooks, Board and committee meeting agendas, and District grievance procedures to participate in the governance of the District through the Board of Trustees. Contact information for administrators and trustees is available on the [District's Website](#).
- Contact a counselor or principal to discuss rights related to student name and pronoun use consistent with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act and Policy 3600.
- Become a school volunteer. For further information, contact the front office at 406-522-6750.
- Participate in campus parent organizations. Parents have the opportunity to support and be involved in various school activities, either as leaders or in supporting roles. Please contact the Parent Advisory Council at whittierpac@gmail.com to get involved.
- Offer to serve as a parent representative on the District-level or campus-level planning committees formulating educational goals and plans to improve student achievement. For further information, contact Spree Hincks at 406-522-6003.

PRAYER

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. The school will not require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Board Policy 2421

The decision to promote a student to the next grade level shall be based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance based on standard achievement tests or other testing. A student shall not be promoted or retained based on age or other social reason not related to academic performance.

PROTECTION OF STUDENT RIGHTS

Board Policy 3200

The District recognizes fully that all students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected under federal and state constitutions and law for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. The District expects students to exercise these rights reasonably and to avoid violating the rights of others. The District may impose disciplinary measures whenever students violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules.

Parent Rights

All fundamental parental rights are exclusively reserved to the parent of a child without obstruction or interference by a government entity in accordance with state and federal law (including without limitation to statutes and the common law) and District policy.

Surveys

Parents have the right to inspect any survey or evaluation and refuse to allow their child to participate in such survey or evaluation.

Instructional Materials

Parents have the right to inspect instructional materials used as a part of their child's educational curriculum, within a reasonable time. This does not include academic tests or assessments.

Collection of Personal Information from Students for Marketing

The district will not administer or distribute to students any survey or other instrument for the purposes of collecting or compiling personal information for marketing or selling such information, with the exception of the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products/services for, or to, students or educational institutions.

Pursuant to federal law, the district will not request, nor disclose, the identity of a student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the district) containing one or more of the following:

- Political affiliations.
- Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or family.
- Sexual behavior and attitudes.
- Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior.
- Criticism of other individuals with whom the student or the student's family has a close family relationship.
- Relationships privileged under law, such as relationships with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of students or the student's parent/guardian.
- Income, except when the information will be used to determine the student's eligibility to participate in a special program or to receive financial assistance under such a program.

RELEASE OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Board Policy 3441

A student will not be released from school at times other than at the end of the school day except with permission from the principal or designee and according to the building sign-out procedures. Unless the principal has granted approval because of extenuating circumstances, a student will not regularly be released before the end of the instructional day.

A student who will need to leave school during the day must bring a note from a parent that morning. A student who becomes ill during the school day should, with the teacher's permission, report to the office or school nurse. The administrator or nurse will decide whether or not the student should be sent home and will notify the student's parent.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Board Policy 2332

Each student has a right to individually, voluntarily, and silently pray or meditate in school in a manner that does not disrupt instructional or other activities of the school. Students may also pray in groups and discuss their religious views with other students as long as they are not disruptive or coercive. The school will not require, encourage, or coerce a student to engage in or to refrain from such prayer or meditation during any school activity. Student prayer, even if nonsectarian or non-proselytizing, will not be broadcast over the school public address system.

Students may study religions ancillary to the studies of human history and development and various national, cultural, and ethnic groups. This study will give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any religion or religious belief. The inclusion of religious music, symbols, art, or writings during instruction or in school programs or performances may occur where the religious content has a historical and/or independent educational purpose consistent with the approved curriculum. A student may read the Bible or other religious material during free reading time or when self-selected and consistent with a classroom or course requirements.

REPORT CARDS, PROGRESS REPORTS, AND CONFERENCES

Written reports of absences and student grades or performance in each class or subject are issued to parents at least once every 22 weeks.

Report cards and progress reports are delivered digitally through PowerSchool and must be signed by the parent/guardian.

In grades K -5, achievement shall be reported to parents as:

4 = Advanced	3 = Proficient	2 = Developing	1 = Emerging	NA = Not Assessed
--------------	----------------	----------------	--------------	-------------------

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates exceptional content knowledge and process skills of standards. Independently applies knowledge and skills to rigorous and complex situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates content knowledge and process skills of standards. With minimal support applies knowledge and skills to new situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates partial content knowledge and process skills of standards. With moderate support applies knowledge and skills to routine situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates minimal content knowledge and process skills of standards. Inconsistently applies knowledge and skills to routine situations. 	No basis for evaluation at this time.
--	--	---	--	---------------------------------------

Students' proficiency in the area of Characteristics of a Successful Learner and Effort are reported with the following performance descriptors:

4	3	2	1
Consistently demonstrates characteristics with no prompting	Consistently demonstrates characteristics with minimal prompting	Sometimes demonstrates characteristics	Rarely demonstrates characteristics

SAFETY

[Board Policy 3450](#)

Accident Prevention

Student safety on campus and at school-related events is a high priority of the District. Although the District has implemented safety procedures, the cooperation of students is essential to ensure school safety. A student should:

- Avoid conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk.
- Follow the behavioral standards in this handbook, as well as any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal, teachers, or bus drivers.
- Remain alert to and promptly report safety hazards, such as intruders on campus.
- Know emergency evacuation routes and signals.
- Follow immediately the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other District employees who are overseeing the welfare of students.

If injured while at school or at a school sponsored activity, contact your teacher, advisor, or coach and have them fill out the district's injury report form as soon as possible. This form can be obtained on line at bsd7.org ([Form 3431F](#))

Students MUST tell the coach/sponsor of the injury so that the coach/sponsor can file an accident report. Notification to the coach/sponsor PRIOR to seeking a physician's care is very important. The insurance carrier for BSD7 WILL NOT process any paperwork without first having an accident report on file.

Accident Insurance

The school district does not provide accident or medical insurance coverage for students. Insurance coverage may be purchased by parents through a private company for a minimum fee. Insurance

information is distributed at the beginning of the school year and available throughout the year. Please review the information carefully, consider the benefits of such coverage, and complete the application as per instructions. Please contact the office for additional information. This insurance covers while your child is at school or participating in activities. A parent seeking coverage must make sure the insurance coverage is in place prior to the first day of practice and/or school.

Emergency Medical Treatment and Information

If a student has a medical emergency at school or a school-related activity when the parent cannot be reached, the school will need to have written parental consent to obtain emergency medical treatment and information about allergies to medications, etc. Therefore, parents are asked each year to complete an emergency care consent form. Parents should keep emergency care information up to date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies, etc.). Please contact the office to update any information.

Disaster Drills and Other Emergencies

From time to time, students, teachers, and other District employees will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students should follow the direction of teachers or others in charge quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Emergency School-Closing Information:

In the event of an emergency school closure, families will be notified by School Messenger, social media and mainstream media. For this reason, it is important for families to maintain current contact information in PowerSchool at all times.

[Board Policy 8301P](#)

Inclement Weather

Generally students will go outside for recess unless the temperature falls below 0 degrees Fahrenheit, or if the combination of wind chill and temperature necessitate limited outdoor exposure.

As the temperature and conditions may vary between schools and time of day, the principal or designee will make the final decision regarding outdoor recess.

Parents are encouraged to remind students to dress appropriately for all weather conditions. Students should assume that they will be outside for recess every day and should dress for the weather. Questions regarding school recess procedures should be directed to the school principal.

SEARCHES

[Board Policy 3231](#)

In the interest of promoting student safety and attempting to ensure that schools are safe and drug free, District officials may from time to time conduct searches. Such searches are conducted without a warrant and as permitted by law.

Students' Desks and Lockers

[Board Policy 3231](#)

Students' desks and lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student.

Students are fully responsible for the security and contents of the assigned desks and lockers. Students must be certain that the locker is locked, and that the combination is not available to others.

Searches of desks or lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to believe that they contain articles or materials prohibited by District policy, whether or not a student is present. Searches may also be conducted at random, in accordance with law and District policy. See policy 3231. The parent will be notified if any prohibited items are found in the student's desk or locker.

Vehicles on Campus

[Board Policy 3231](#)

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the presence of the student. A student has full responsibility for the security of their vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others.

Drug Detection Dogs

[Board Policy 3231](#)

The Superintendent may request the assistance of law enforcement personnel or private individuals to conduct inspections and searches through the use of specially trained dogs.

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (“SECTION 504”)

[BOARD POLICY 2162](#)

It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. For those students who need or are believed to need special instruction and/or related services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards. The safeguards shall cover students' identification, evaluation, and educational placement. This system shall include: notice, an opportunity for the student's parent or legal guardian to examine relevant records, an impartial hearing with opportunity for participation by the student's parent or legal guardian, and a review procedure. Parents who feel their child may qualify for 504 should contact the building principal to initiate an evaluation. Refer to Board Policy 2162 & 2162P.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT / SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION

[Board Policy 3225](#)

The District encourages staff, parental, and student support in its efforts to address and prevent sexual harassment and sexual discrimination in the public schools. Students and/or parents will discuss their questions or concerns about the expectations in this area with Pat Strauss, Director of Human Resources, who serves as the District Title IX coordinator.

1. Sex-based harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other
2. harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics,
3. pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity, that is:
4. (1) Quid pro quo harassment. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the recipient to
5. provide an aid, benefit, or service under the recipient's education program or activity
6. explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a
7. person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
8. (2) Hostile environment harassment. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the
9. circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it
10. limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education

11. program or activity (i.e., creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has
12. been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:
13. (i) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the
14. recipient's education program or activity;
15. (ii) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;
16. (iii) The parties' age, roles within the recipient's education program or activity, previous
17. interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating
18. the effects of the conduct;
19. (iv) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and
20. (v) Other sex-based harassment in the recipient's education program or activity; or
21. (3) Specific offenses.
22. (i) Sexual assault meaning an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense
23. under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
24. (ii) Dating violence meaning violence committed by a person:
25. (A) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate
26. nature with the victim; and
27. (B) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based
28. on a consideration of the following factors:
29. (1) The length of the relationship;
30. (2) The type of relationship; and
31. (3) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship;
32. (iii) Domestic violence meaning felony misdemeanor crimes committed by a person who:
33. (A) Is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic
34. violence laws of the jurisdiction of the recipient, or a person similarly situation to a spouse of the
35. victim;
36. (B) Is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
37. (C) Shares a child in common with the victim; or
38. (D) Commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family
39. or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction; or
- (iv) Stalking meaning engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause
- a reasonable person to:
- (A) Fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or
- (B) Suffer substantial emotional distress.

All students are expected to treat other students and District employees with courtesy and respect; to avoid any behaviors known to be offensive; and to stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop. A substantiated complaint against a student or staff member will result in appropriate disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense. Supportive measures are available to parties involved in Title IX investigations.

The District will notify the parents of all students involved in sexual harassment by student(s) and will notify parents of any incident of sexual harassment or sexual discrimination by an employee. To the greatest extent possible, complaints will be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

A complaint alleging sexual harassment by another student or sexual harassment or sexual discrimination by a staff member may be presented by a student and/or parent in a conference with the Title IX coordinator. The parent or other advisor may accompany the student throughout the complaint process. The conference will be scheduled and held as soon as possible. The principal coordinator District will

conduct an appropriate investigation in accordance with Policy 3225 and 3225P. The student will not be required to present a complaint to a person who is the subject of the complaint.

If the resolution of the complaint is not satisfactory to the decision may appeal in accordance with Policy 3225P.

BULLYING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/HAZING

[Board Policy 3226](#)

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, or hazing, by students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated.

"Bullying" means any harassment, intimidation, hazing, or threatening, insulting, or demeaning gesture or physical contact, including any intentional written, verbal, or electronic communication ("cyberbullying") or threat directed against a student that is persistent, severe, or repeated, and that substantially interferes with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, that takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school-sponsored activity, on school-provided transportation, at any official school bus stop, or anywhere conduct may reasonably be considered to be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a student or staff member or an interference with school purposes or an educational function.

All complaints about behavior that may violate this policy shall be promptly investigated.

Retaliation is prohibited against any person who reports or is thought to have reported a violation, files a complaint, or otherwise participates in an investigation or inquiry.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

[Board Policy 2161](#)

The District will provide a free appropriate public education and necessary related services to all children with disabilities residing within the District, as required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), provisions of Montana law, and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District will follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of service to children with disabilities, as provided in the current *Montana State Plan under Part B of IDEA*. Refer to Policy 2161 & 2161P.

Parents who feel their child may qualify for Special Education services should contact the building principal to initiate an evaluation.

STUDENT RECORDS

[Board Policy 3600](#)

A student's school records are confidential and are protected from unauthorized inspection or use. A cumulative record is maintained for each student from the time the student enters the District until the time the student withdraws or graduates. A copy of this record moves with the student from school to school.

By law, both parents, whether married, separated, or divorced, have access to the records of a student who is under 18 or a dependent for tax purposes. A parent whose rights have been legally terminated will be denied access to the records, if the school is given a copy of the court order terminating these rights.

The principal is custodian of all records for currently enrolled students. The Superintendent is the custodian of all records for students who have withdrawn or graduated. Records may be reviewed during regular school hours, upon completion of the written request form. The records custodian or designee

will respond to reasonable requests for explanation and interpretation of the records. If circumstances prevent a parent or eligible student from inspecting the records, the District will either provide a copy of the requested records or make other arrangements for the parent or student to review the requested records.

Parents of a minor or of a student who is a dependent for tax purposes, the student (if 18 or older), and school officials with legitimate educational interests are the only persons who have general access to a student's records. "School officials with legitimate educational interests" include any employees, agents, or Trustees of the District; cooperatives of which the District is a member; or facilities with which the District contracts for the placement of students with disabilities, as well as their attorneys and consultants, who are:

- Working with the student;
- Considering disciplinary or academic actions, the student's case, an individual education plan (IEP) for a student with disabilities under IDEA, or an individually designed program for a student with disabilities under Section 504;
- Compiling statistical data; or
- Investigating or evaluating programs.

The parent's or student's right of access to, and copies of, student records does not extend to all records. Materials that are not considered educational records, such as teachers' personal notes on a student that are shared only with a substitute teacher, records pertaining to former students of the District, and records maintained by school law enforcement officials for purposes other than school discipline do not have to be made available to the parents or student.

Certain officials from various governmental agencies may have limited access to the records. The District forwards a student's records on request and without prior parental consent to a school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. Records are also released in accordance with court order or lawfully issued subpoena. Unless the subpoena is issued for law enforcement purposes and the subpoena orders that its contents, existence, or the information sought not be disclosed, the District will make a reasonable effort to notify the parent or eligible student in advance of compliance.

Parental consent is required to release the records to anyone else. When the student reaches 18 years of age, only the student has the right to consent to release of records.

Students over 18, and parents of minor students may inspect the student's records and request a correction if the records are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy or other rights. If the District refuses the request to amend the records, the requestor has the right to ask for a hearing. If the records are not amended as a result of the hearing, the requestor has 30 school days to exercise the right to place a statement commenting on the information in the student's record. Although improperly recorded grades may be challenged, parents and the student are not allowed to contest a student's grade in a course through this process. Parents or the student have the right to file a complaint with the U. S. Department of Education if they believe the District is not in compliance with the law regarding student records.

Copies of student records are available at a cost per page, payable in advance. Contact the building principal for more information. Parents may be denied copies of a student's records (1) after the student reaches age 18 and is no longer a dependent for tax purposes; (2) when the student is attending an institution of post-secondary education; (3) if the parent fails to follow proper procedures and pay the copying charge; or (4) when the District is given a copy of a court order terminating the parental rights. If the student qualifies for free or reduced-price meals and the parents are unable to view the records during regular school hours, upon written request of the parent, one copy of the record will be provided at no charge.

Certain information about district students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone, including military recruiters and/or post-secondary institutions, who follows procedures for requesting it, unless the parent objects to the release of any or all directory information about the child. The opportunity to exercise such an objection was provided on the form signed by the parent to

acknowledge receipt of this handbook. Should circumstances change, the parent can contact the principal to indicate their desire to change the original request. Directory information may include: a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, photographs, dates of attendance, awards received in school, and most recent previous school attended.

Special Education Records

[Board Policy 2161](#)

Parents of a student with disabilities who has been provided special education services by the District will be notified when any information that specifically identifies the student is no longer needed. If the parent requests destruction of the information and the time established by law for retention has expired, the records will be destroyed. However, if the expired, the material will be deleted from the records but the records will be maintained until the time has expired.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

School and Grade-Level Specific

TEXTBOOKS

[Board Policy 2311](#)

Board-approved textbooks are provided free of charge for each subject or class. Books must be covered by the student, as directed by the teacher, and treated with care. A student who is issued a damaged book should report the damage to the teacher. Any student failing to return a book issued by the school or damaging a book issued by the school may be charged to replace the book.

TRANSPORTATION

[Board Policy 2320](#)

School Sponsored

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to use transportation provided by the school to and from the event. The principal, however, may make an exception if the parent person ally requests that the student be permitted to ride with the parent, or the parent presents — before the scheduled trip — a written request that the student be permitted to ride with an adult designated by the parent.

Buses and Other School Vehicles

The District makes school bus transportation available to all students living three or more miles from school. This service is provided at no cost to students. Bus routes and any subsequent changes are posted at the school. Further information may be obtained by calling the transportation office at 406-522-6041. Students are expected to assist District staff in ensuring that buses remain in good condition and that transportation is provided safely. When riding school buses, students are held to behavioral standards established in this handbook. Students must:

- Follow the driver's directions at all times.
- Enter and leave the bus in an orderly manner at the designated bus stop nearest home.
- Keep feet, books, band instrument cases, and other objects out of the aisle.
- Not deface the bus or its equipment.
- Not put head, hands, arms, or legs out of the window, hold any object out of the window, or throw objects within or out of the bus.

- Wait for the driver’s signal upon leaving the bus and before crossing in front of the bus.
- Remain seated while bus is moving.

When students ride in a District van or passenger car, seat belts must be fastened at all times. Misconduct will be punished and bus-riding privileges may be suspended.

Transporting Students with District/Personal Vehicle

[Board Policy 2320F1](#)

Any person transporting students in a personal vehicle must provide the District with proof of current car insurance.

VIDEOTAPING OF STUDENTS

[Board Policy 3235](#)

The District has the right to use security and surveillance video cameras on District property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. Students in violation of Board policies, administrative regulations, building rules, or law shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action. Others may be referred to law enforcement agencies.

Video recordings from security and surveillance cameras may become a part of a student’s educational record. The District shall comply with all applicable state and federal laws related to record maintenance and retention. Signs will be posted at various locations to inform students, staff, and members of the public that video surveillance cameras are in use. The District will seek consent before recording students individually in the classroom.

VISITORS

[Board Policy 4301](#)

Parents and others are welcome to visit District schools. For the safety of those within the school, all visitors must first report to the principal’s office. Visits to individual classrooms during instructional time are permitted only with approval of the principal and teacher and so long as their duration or frequency does not interfere with the delivery of instruction or disrupt the normal school environment.

• Receipt of Handbook

“I have received a copy of the (school name) Student Handbook for 20__-20__. I understand that the handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year. I understand that all students will be held accountable for their behavior and will be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined in the handbook.”

Print name of student: _____

Signature of student: _____
Signature of parent: _____
Date: _____