Office of the Superintendent
Billings Public Schools
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September 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, Billings Public Schools is committed to maintaining transparent communication with families regarding instruction related to human sexuality and identity. Montana House Bill 471, effective July 1, 2025, updated state requirements for parent notification, review of instructional materials, withdrawal from human sexuality instruction, and written consent for identity instruction.

Human Sexuality Instruction. Human sexuality instruction may include topics such as intimate relationships, sexual anatomy, reproduction, sexually transmitted infections, abstinence, contraception, and reproductive rights and responsibilities. Parents and guardians may review related curriculum materials before they are used and may withdraw their child from human sexuality instruction. A student withdrawn from this instruction will be considered to have an excused absence.

Identity Instruction. Identity instruction may include topics such as gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Under HB 471, a student may participate in identity instruction only with the written consent of the student's parent or guardian. Without written permission, the student will not be included in identity instruction.

This letter serves as the District's annual notification of these instructional areas. Information about the District's health enhancement curriculum, approved instructional materials involving human sexuality or identity instruction is available through the District curriculum webpage using the link or QR code below.

In addition to this annual notice, your child's principal and teacher will provide specific information regarding applicable instruction and its schedule no fewer than five school days and no more than 14 school days prior. Families will be provided the appropriate process to withdraw a student from human sexuality instruction or, when applicable, to provide written permission for identity instruction. Please contact your child's classroom teacher or building principal with questions or to review instructional materials.

We value the partnership we share with families and respect the important role parents and guardians have in making informed decisions about their child's education. Thank you for your continued trust and partnership with Billings Public Schools.

Warm regards,

Erwin Garcia, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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