

1 **Browning Public Schools**

Draft

2 ***Policy #5460***

3 Policy Name: *Electronic Resources and Social Networking*
4 Regulation-----
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6 The Browning School District recognizes that an effective public education system develops
7 students who are globally aware, civically engaged, and capable of managing their lives and
8 careers. The District also believes that students need to be proficient users of information,
9 media, and technology to succeed in a digital world.

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

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

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23 Specifically, the following forms of technology-based interactivity or connectivity are expressly
24 forbidden when used in a manner not related to the delivery of educational services or district
25 operations.

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- 27 • Sharing personal landline or cell phone numbers with students for non-educational purposes;
- 28 • Text messaging students for non-educational purposes. Extra-curricular school sponsored
- 29 field trips sporting activities and academic activities (such as the band traveling to an away
- 30 game) are considered educational activities for purposes of this policy however only texting
- 31 to support and keep in contact for the duration of the extra-curricular activity is permitted;
- 32 • Emailing students other than through and to school controlled and monitored accounts;
- 33 • Soliciting students as friends or contacts on social networking sites for non-educational purposes
- 34 except for individuals who are close family members;
- 35 • Accepting the solicitation of students as friends or contacts on social networking sites for non-
- 36 educational purposes except for individuals who are close family members;
- 37 • Creation of non-approved and/or non-sanctioned "groups" on social networking sites that permit
- 38 the broadcast of information without granting students access to staff member's personal
- 39 information;
- 40 • Sharing with student's access information to personal websites or other media through which the
- 41 staff member would share personal information and occurrences.
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43 Accessing social networking websites for individual use during school hours is prohibited, unless
44 asked to do so by administration. Except in an emergency situation, staff shall not access social
45 networking sites using district resources, including during breaks or preparation periods. All school

1 district employees who participate in social networking websites, shall not post any school district
2 data, documents, photographs, logos, or other district owned or created information on any website
3 except for information posted to district sanctioned social media presences. Further, the posting of
4 any private or confidential school district material on such websites including district sanctioned
5 social media presences are strictly prohibited.

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

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11 The sanctioned social media presences for the District are:

12 Facebook <https://facebook.com/BrowningPS>

13 Twitter. <https://twitter.com/BrowningPS>

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15 The District retains the right to establish and sanction additional social media presences and will
16 be reported as such to the board of trustees should the presence be established.

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19 **Cross Reference:** 5015 Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation
20 5223 Personal Conduct
21 5255 Disciplinary Action
22 *Professional Educators of Montana Code of Ethics*

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24 **Policy History:**

25 Reviewed on: 8/29/18

26 Adopted on:
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