

1 **Browning Public Schools**

2  
3 Policy #5460

4 Policy Name: *Electronic Resources and Social Networking*

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7 The Browning School District recognizes that an effective public education system develops  
8 students who are globally aware, civically engaged, and capable of managing their lives and  
9 careers. The District also believes that students need to be proficient users of information,  
10 media, and technology to succeed in a digital world.

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

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

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

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28 • Sharing personal landline or cell phone numbers with students for non-educational purposes;  
29 • Text messaging students for non-educational purposes. Extra-curricular school sponsored  
30 field trips sporting activities and academic activities (such as the band traveling to an away  
31 game) are considered educational activities for purposes of this policy however only texting  
32 to support and keep in contact for the duration of the extra-curricular activity is permitted;  
33 • Emailing students other than through and to school controlled and monitored accounts;  
34 • Soliciting students as friends or contacts on social networking sites for non-educational purposes  
35 except for individuals who are close family members;  
36 • Accepting the solicitation of students as friends or contacts on social networking sites for non-  
37 educational purposes except for individuals who are close family members;  
38 • Creation of non-approved and/or non-sanctioned "groups" on social networking sites that permit  
39 the broadcast of information without granting students access to staff member's personal  
40 information;  
41 • Sharing with student's access information to personal websites or other media through which the  
42 staff member would share personal information and occurrences.  
43

44 Accessing social networking websites for individual use during school hours is prohibited, unless  
45 asked to do so by administration. Except in an emergency situation, staff shall not access social  
46 networking sites using district resources, including during breaks or preparation periods. All

1 school district employees who participate in social networking websites, shall not post any  
2 school district data, documents, photographs, logos, or other district owned or created  
3 information on any website except for information posted to district sanctioned social media  
4 presences. Further, the posting of any private or confidential school district material on such  
5 websites including district sanctioned 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 Adopted on: 8/14/18 (replaced old policy)

26 Reviewed on:

27 Revised on:

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