

**PRYOR SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**4000 SERIES  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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## **Pryor Public Schools**

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**4120**

#### Public Relations

The District will strive to maintain effective two-way communications with the public to enable the Board and staff to interpret schools' needs to the community and provide a means for citizens to express their needs and expectations to the Board and staff.

The Superintendent will establish and maintain a communication process within the school system and between it and the community. Such public information programs will provide for news releases at appropriate times, arrange for media coverage of District programs and events, provide for regular direct communications between individual schools and the citizens they serve, and assist staff in improving their skills and understanding in communicating with the public.

The District may solicit community opinion through parent organizations, parent-teacher conferences, open houses, and other events or activities which may bring staff and citizens together.

Legal Reference: Art. II, Sec. 10, Montana Constitution

#### Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on:

School-Support Organizations

The Board recognizes that parent, teacher and student organizations are an invaluable resource to the District schools and so supports their formation and vitality. The Board encourages their suggestions and assistance. Membership in these organizations must be open and unrestricted.

Booster clubs and/or special interest organizations may be formed to support and strengthen specific activities conducted within the school or District. All such groups must receive the approval of the school principal, Superintendent and the Board in order to be recognized as a booster organization. Staff participation, cooperation and support are encouraged in such recognized organizations.

***Fundraising by School Support Organizations***

Fundraising by school support groups is considered a usual and desirable part of the function of such groups. Specific fundraising activities must be approved in advance by the Principal. The Principal must be consulted before any expenditure of such funds. All such funds raised by school adjunct groups are to be used for direct or indirect support of school programs. Equipment purchased by support groups and donated to the schools becomes the property of the District and may be used or disposed of in accordance with District policy and state law.

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on:

**Pryor Public Schools**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**4301**

Visitors to Schools

The District encourages visits by Board members, parents, and citizens to all District buildings. All visitors shall report to the principal's office on entering any District building. Conferences with teachers should be held outside school hours or during the teacher's conference or preparation time.

Cross Reference: 4313 Disruption of School Operations

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on:

**Pryor Public Schools**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**4313**

Disruption of School Operations

The staff member in charge will immediately notify local law enforcement authorities, if any person disrupts or obstructs any school program, activity, or meeting or threatens to do so, or commits, threatens to imminently commit, or incites another to commit any act that will disturb or interfere with or obstruct any lawful task, function, process, or procedure of any student, official, employee, or invitee of the District.

The staff member in charge will make a written report detailing the incident no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the incident occurs. A copy of the report will be given to the staff member's immediate supervisor.

Cross Reference: 4301 Visitors to Schools

Legal Reference: § 20-1-206, MCA Disturbance of school - penalty  
§ 20-5-201, MCA Duties and sanctions  
§ 45-8-101, MCA Disorderly conduct

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on:

Conduct on School Property

In addition to prohibitions stated in other District policies, no person on school property shall:

- Possess, carry or store a weapon at any time;
- Injure or threaten to injure another person;
- Damage another's property or that of the District;
- Violate any provision of the criminal law of the state of Montana or town or county ordinance;
- Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or marijuana products (tobacco includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, or any other tobacco or nicotine innovation) (marijuana products include but are not limited to edible products, ointments, tinctures, marijuana derivatives, marijuana concentrates, and marijuana intended for use by smoking or vaping);
- Consume, possess, or distribute alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or medical marijuana at any time;
- Impede, delay, or otherwise interfere with the orderly conduct of the District's educational program or any other activity occurring on school property;
- Use vulgar or obscene language or gestures;
- Disregard the directives of school officials or security personnel;
- Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those which are lawful and authorized by the Board; or
- Violate other District rules and regulations.

“School property” means within school buildings, in vehicles used for school purposes, or on owned or leased school grounds. These regulations are in effect year round, and during all District extra or co-curricular activities. District administrators will take appropriate action as circumstances warrant, up to and including recommending that the individual violating this policy be denied access to District property. If a recommendation is made to the Board to deny access to District property to an individual, that individual will be notified of date, time and place of the meeting of the Board as well as of the specific allegations to be presented to the Board.

Legal References:

§ 20-1-206, MCA	Disturbance of school
§ 20-1-220, MCA	Use of tobacco on school property prohibited <i>(revised by House Bill 128)</i>
§ 45-8-361, MCA	Possession of a weapon in a school building
§ 50-46-301, MCA	Montana Medical Marijuana Act
20 USC § 7101	Safe and Drug Free Schools & Community Act

Policy History

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on:

Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities will be provided opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities on a basis equal to those without disabilities and will not be subject to illegal discrimination. The District may provide auxiliary aids and services when necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal opportunity to participate in or enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity. Covid-19 vaccine status will not be used as a basis to deny or allow equal opportunity to education.

An individual with a disability should notify the Superintendent or building principal if they have a disability which will require special assistance or services. This notification should occur as far as possible before the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

Individuals with disabilities may allege a violation of this policy or of federal law by reporting it to the Superintendent, as the Title II Coordinator, or by filing a grievance under the Section 504 and ADA Grievance Procedure.

***Service animals***

The District will comply with all state and federal laws, regulations, and rules regarding the use of service animals by a staff member, student, and community member required because that individual has a disability and the service animal is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of that individual.

A service animal is any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this policy. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition. The District may permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability under circumstances established by the Superintendent.

The Superintendent will establish procedures regarding the use of service animals by individuals with disabilities.



28 C.F.R. §§ 35.104, 35.136

§ 49-3-201, MCA et seq  
House Bill 702

§ 50-16-502, MCA

Nondiscrimination on the Basis of  
Disability in State and Local  
Government Services  
Governmental Code of Fair Practices  
Prohibits Discrimination Based on  
Vaccine Status  
Legislative findings (*Cited by House  
Bill 702*)

Cross References:

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Revised on:

**Pryor Public Schools**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

**4330**

Community Use of School Facilities

The Trustees are supportive of the people of the community using the school facilities for both educational and recreational purposes. The Administration shall be charged with the responsibility of coordinating and authorizing use of all grounds and facilities by groups other than those directly connected with the school. The Administration shall develop the rules, regulations, and procedures for the use of facilities. As required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, the District shall provide an equal right of access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated patriotic youth groups. Sexually oriented performances are not permitted on District property.

Legal Reference:

20 USC § 7905 Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act  
House Bill 359 Prohibiting Sexually Oriented  
Performances on Public Property

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on:

Use of School Property for Posting Notices

Non-school-related organizations may request permission of the building principal to display posters in the area reserved for community posters or to have flyers distributed to students.

Posters and/or flyers must be student oriented and have the sponsoring organization's name prominently displayed. The District will not permit the posting or distribution of any material that would:

- a. Disrupt the educational process;
- b. Violate the rights of others;
- c. Invade the privacy of others;
- d. Infringe on a copyright; or
- e. Be obscene, vulgar, or indecent.
- f. Promote the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, marijuana products, firearms, or certain products that create community concerns.

No commercial publication shall be posted or distributed unless the purpose is to further a school activity, such as graduation, class pictures, or class rings. No information from any candidates for non-student elective offices shall be posted in or around school district property, or distributed to the students.

If permission is granted to distribute materials, the organization must arrange to have copies delivered to the school. Distribution of the materials will be arranged by administration.

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on:

Cooperative Programs with Other Districts and Public Agencies

Whenever it appears to the economic, administrative, and/or educational advantage of the District to participate in cooperative programs with other units of local government, the Superintendent will prepare and present for Board consideration an analysis of each cooperative proposal.

When formal cooperative agreements are developed, such agreements shall comply with requirements of the Interlocal Cooperation Act, with assurances that all parties to the agreement have legal authority to engage in the activities contemplated by the agreement.

The District may enter into an interlocal agreement providing for the sharing of teachers, specialists, superintendents, or other professional persons licensed under Title 37, MCA. If the District shares a teacher or specialist with another district(s), the District's share of such teacher's or specialist's compensation will be based on the total number of instructional hours expended by the teacher or the specialist in the District.

The District may enter a multidistrict agreement with one or more districts for a district to provide culturally rooted instruction aligned to a learning environment for English language learners or an Indian language immersion program to pupils of a district participating in the multidistrict agreement.

Legal Reference:	§§ 7-11-101, <i>et seq.</i> , MCA	Interlocal Cooperation Act
	§ 20-3-363, MCA	Multidistrict agreements – fund transfers ( <i>revised by House Bill 214</i> )
	§§ 20-7-451 through 456, MCA	Authorization to create full service education cooperatives
	§§ 20-7-801, <i>et seq.</i> , MCA	Public recreation

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on:

## **Pryor Public Schools**

### **COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

4550

#### Registered Sex Offenders

The State of Montana has determined that perpetrators of certain sex crimes pose a continuing threat to society as a whole even after completion of their criminal sentences. Recognizing that the safety and welfare of students is of paramount importance, the District declares that, except in limited circumstances, its property should be off limits to registered sex offenders.

#### Employment

Notwithstanding any other Board policy, individuals listed by the State of Montana as registered sex offenders are ineligible for employment in any position within the District. However, the Superintendent shall have discretion consistent with other Board policies to recommend an individual whose name has been expunged from the Sex Offender Registry.

#### School Off Limits

The District hereby declares that no registered sex offender whose victim was a minor may come on, about, or within one thousand (1,000) feet of any District-owned buildings or property except as otherwise provided in this policy. If an administrator becomes aware that such a sex offender is on, about, or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school property, the administrator shall direct the sex offender to immediately leave the area. The Board authorizes the administrator to request the assistance of the appropriate law enforcement authorities to secure the removal of any registered sex offender from the area. If a registered sex offender disregards the terms of this policy or the directives of the school administrator, then the Superintendent is authorized to confer with counsel and to pursue such criminal or civil action as may be necessary to enforce compliance with this policy.

This policy shall not be construed to impose any duty upon any administrator or any other employee of the District to review the Sex Offender Registry or to screen individuals coming on or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school property to ascertain whether they are on the Registry. This policy shall only apply when administrators are actually aware that the person in question is on the Sex Offender Registry and that the offender's victim was a minor.

#### Rights of Parents on the Sex Offender Registry

In the event that a registered sex offender whose victim was a minor has a child attending the District, the administrator of the school where the child attends shall be authorized to modify this policy's restrictions to permit the parent to drop off and pick up the child from school and to come onto campus to attend parent-teacher conferences. However, the parent may not linger on or about school property before or after dropping off his or her child, and the parent is prohibited from being in any part of the school building except the main office.

This policy does not impose a duty upon the administrator of any school or any other employee of the District to review the Sex Offender Registry and the school system's directory information to ascertain whether a registered sex offender may have a child attending school in the District. The provisions of this policy shall apply only if an administrator actually becomes aware that a parent of a student at the school is a registered sex offender.

To facilitate voluntary compliance with this policy, administrators are encouraged to speak with any affected parents upon learning of their status as registered sex offenders to communicate the restrictions of this policy. At all times, the administrator shall endeavor to protect the privacy of the offender's child.

In the event of a truly exceptional situation, a parent on the Sex Offender Registry may ask the Superintendent for a waiver of this policy to permit the parent to attend these special events. It is the intent of the Board, however, that these special circumstances be truly unusual and infrequent occurrences.

Legal Reference:       § 46-23-501, MCA                       Sexual or Violent Offender Registration Act  
                                  [www.doj.mt.gov/svor/](http://www.doj.mt.gov/svor/)                       Sexual or Violent Offender Registry

Policy History:

Adopted on:

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Family and Community Engagement

The Board recognizes the importance of engaging families in the education of children. The Superintendent and staff shall undertake activities designed to:

- Encourage families to actively participate in the life of their children’s schools;
- Ensure families feel welcomed, valued, and connected to one another, school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class;
- Encourage families and school staff to engage in regular, two-way meaningful communication about student learning;
- Ensure continuous collaboration between families and school staff to support student learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively;
- Empower families to be advocates for their own and other children to ensure that students are treated equitably and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success;
- Allow families and school staff to partner in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs;
- Encourage families and school staff to collaborate with members of the community to connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic preparation;
- Encourage families and school staff to collaborate with members of the community to connect students, families, and staff to post-secondary education opportunities, including workforce training, apprenticeship opportunities, career pathways, and degree programs, and encourage students to explore college and career planning tools (including Free Application for Federal Student Aid completion) and incentives provided by post-secondary institutions.

To the extent feasible and appropriate, the District will attempt to coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs, including but not limited to Title I programs.

Cross Reference:      Board Policy 2158                      Family Engagement Policy  
                                 Board Policy 2160                      Federal Funding and Title I  
                                 Administrative Procedures

Legal Reference:      § 10.55.722, ARM                      Family and Community Engagement

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on: