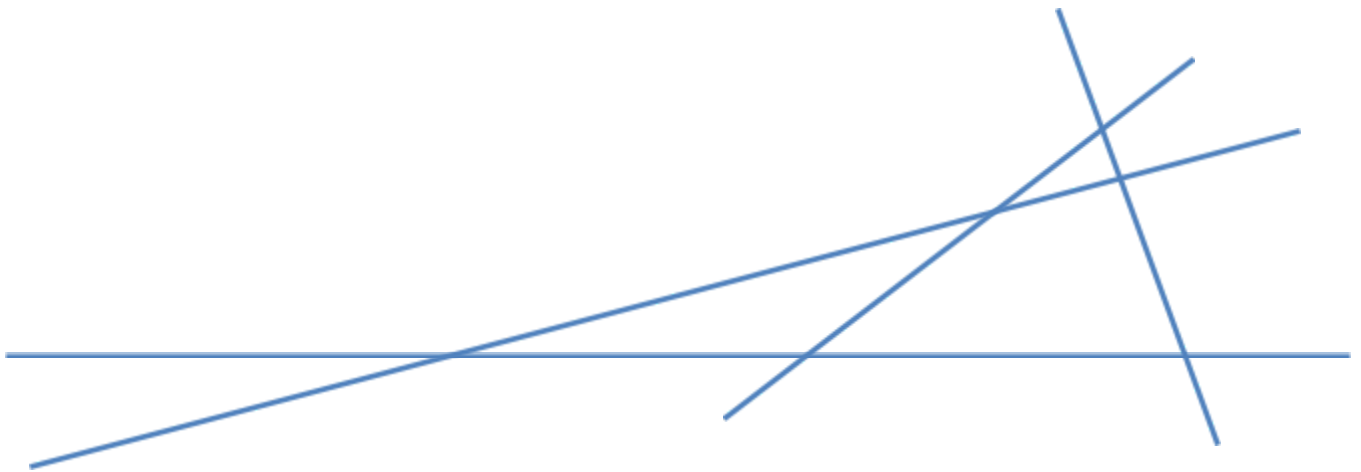


PRYOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK



2024 - 2025

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Pryor School District.

The material covered within this employee handbook is intended as a method of communicating to employees regarding general District information, rules, and regulations and is not intended to either enlarge or diminish any Board policy, administrative regulation, or negotiated agreement. Material contained herein may, therefore, be superseded by such Board policy, administrative regulation, negotiated agreement, or changes in state or federal law.

Any information contained in this employee handbook is subject to unilateral revision or elimination, from time to time, without notice, consultation, or publication, except as may be required by contractual agreements or law.

No information in this document shall be viewed as an offer, expressed or implied, or as a guarantee of any employment of any duration.

In this handbook, **bolded policy codes** indicate related Board policies. Please direct any questions to Superintendent Eric Terrill.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The District's educational program will seek to provide an opportunity for each child to develop to his or her maximum potential.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

See Appendix A.

SCHOOL HOURS

Elementary Office: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Jr.-Sr. High Office: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

District Office: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Elementary School: 9:05 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Jr.-Sr. High School: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023-2024

The Legislature of the State of Montana delegates to the Board responsibility for the conduct and governance of district schools. The Trustees for the 2023-2024 school year, as elected by residents of this district, are as follows:

Duke Goes Ahead dukegoesahead@pryorstaff.org
 Sampson DeCrane samsondecrane@pryorstaff.org

Sereatha Kills Pretty Enemy sereathakillsprettyenemy@pryorstaff.org

Valeen Plainfeather valeenplainfeather@pryorstaff.org

Channis Whiteman channiswhiteman@pryorstaff.org

Unless otherwise specified, all meetings will be held in the High School Library. Meetings shall be held at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month, or at other times and places determined by a majority vote. Except for an unforeseen emergency, meetings must be held in school buildings or, upon unanimous vote of the Trustees, in a publicly accessible building located within the District.

GENERAL TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT

The Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, genetic information, sex, or veteran status, as required by law. "Sex" includes sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. The District is required by federal law, including but not limited to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX, and Section 504 and the Americans with Disabilities Act and their regulations to not discriminate against individuals in violation of these laws.

Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities will be made as required by law.

If considerations of sex, age or disability have a bona fide relationship to the unique requirements of a particular job or if there are federal or state legal requirements that apply, then sex, age or disability may be taken into account as a bona fide occupational qualification, provided such consideration is consistent with governing law.

If you have questions concerning District compliance with state and federal equal opportunity employment laws, including but not limited to Title IX, contact the District's Eric Terrill at ericterrill@pryorstaff.org. For additional information, please see **Policies 5010, 5012, 5015**.

Inquiries may also be directed to the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education.

HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION

The Board intends that employees have a safe and orderly work environment in which to do their jobs. Therefore, the Board does not condone and will not tolerate harassment or bullying of employees, discrimination against employees, or any act prohibited by Board policy that disrupts the work place and/or keeps employees from doing their jobs.

Employees are expected to be civil, respectful, and act in an orderly manner toward one another. Workplace harassment and bullying may be defined as the deliberate, hurtful, repeated mistreatment of an employee, driven by a desire to abuse or control that individual.

Common behaviors include, but are not limited to:

Injuring, threatening, harassing or intimidating a staff member, board member or any other person;
 Defamation of character and/or reputation;
 Yelling, shouting, and screaming; intimidating gestures toward fellow employees;
 Behind-the-back-put-downs, insulting, and unfair criticism;
 Damaging or threatening to damage another's property;
 The deliberate sabotage and undermining of another's work performance;
 Impeding, delaying, or otherwise interfering with the orderly conduct of the district employee program or any other activity occurring on school property;
 Operating a motor vehicle in a risky manner to scare or intimidate;
 Exclusion or social isolation; and
 Other inappropriate behavior that intimidates, offends, degrades or humiliates a co-worker, including occurrences in front of another co-worker, students, parents, contractors or visitors.

Any employee who believes that he or she, or any other employee or student, is being subjected to harassment or discrimination should bring the matter to the attention of the Supervisor and/or Building Principal. Complaints of sexual harassment should be brought to the District's Title IX Coordinator. The District will investigate any such concerns promptly and confidentially to the extent possible. Complaints will be addressed via the applicable grievance procedure; the District's grievance procedures can be found on the District's website <https://www.pryorwarriors.org/> and at each District building.

No employee will be subject to any form of reprisal or retaliation for having made a good-faith complaint under this policy. For complete information concerning the District's position prohibiting harassment/discrimination, assistance in reporting and responding to alleged incidents, and examples of prohibited behaviors, employees should refer to the District's policies and related procedures. For additional information if an employee believes that he or she has been discriminated against or harassed on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, genetic information, or sex, please see **Policies Policies 5010, 5012, 5015.**

HIRING

All personnel are required to sign a written contract with the District. For further information on hiring, refer to **Policy 5120.**

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

All employees receive a copy of their job description and responsibilities for review. Immediate supervisors may assign other duties as needed. Employees should ask their supervisor if they have questions regarding their assigned duties and/or responsibilities. For additional information, please refer to **Policy 5210.**

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Any finalist recommended to be employed in a paid or volunteer position with the District, involving regular unsupervised access to students in schools, as determined by the Superintendent, shall submit to a criminal background investigation conducted by the appropriate law enforcement agency before

consideration of the recommendation for employment or appointment. Any offer of employment or appointment will be contingent on results of the criminal background check. This policy shall also be applied to an employee of a person or firm holding a contract with the District, if the employee is working on school property, and the employee may have unsupervised access to students.

Any requirement of an applicant or employee of a contractor to submit to a fingerprint background check will be in compliance with the National Child Protection Act and applicable federal regulations. If an applicant has any prior record of arrest or conviction by any local, state, or federal law enforcement agency for an offense other than a minor traffic violation, the facts must be reviewed by the Superintendent, who will decide whether the applicant will be declared eligible for appointment or employment. Arrests resolved without conviction will not be considered in the hiring process, unless the charges are pending. The Superintendent shall keep all criminal record information confidential as required by law. For additional information, please see **Policy 5122**.

CONFIDENTIALITY

In certain circumstances employees may receive confidential information regarding students' or employees' medical, discipline or court records. Employees are required to keep student and personnel information in the strictest confidence and are legally prohibited from passing confidential information along to any unauthorized individual. If employees have any questions about access to confidential information, they should speak to their Supervisor.

An official personnel file is established for each person employed by the district. A staff member's personnel file may contain such information as applications for employment, references, records relative to compensation, payroll deductions, evaluations, complaints, and written disciplinary actions. All records containing medical-condition information, such as workers' compensation reports and release/permission to return to work forms, will be kept confidential, in a separate file from personnel records.

All personnel records are considered confidential and not open to public inspection.

Please refer to **Policies 5223 and 5231** for additional information.

SALARIES AND PAYROLL DISTRIBUTION

Checks are issued according to a schedule approved annually by the Board. Salaries for certified personnel are based on a salary schedule providing for 187 days of employment. Determination of and changes to certified employees' rank and experience are determined in compliance with the master agreement. Classified personnel may be paid on an hourly or salary basis, as determined by the Board and master agreement.

It is the staff member's responsibility to provide all information necessary for placement on the salary schedule to the office in accordance with timelines established by the district and negotiated agreements.

BENEFITS AND LEAVE

INSURANCE

The Board provides unemployment insurance, workers' compensation and liability insurance for all employees. In addition, the Board provides group health insurance to eligible employees. Certified employees are eligible for insurance benefits as stated in the current master contract. Classified employees are eligible for insurance benefits as stated in the current master contract.

For more information regarding insurance benefits for employees, please see **Policy 5331** or contact Crystal Gomez.

SALARY DEDUCTIONS

The District makes all payroll deductions required by law or as authorized by the employee.

ADMISSION TO DISTRICT EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Staff members are provided two (2) activities passes to all home events.

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

School personnel are reimbursed for travel that is required as part of their duties or for school-related activities approved by the Supervisor. The District will inform staff regarding expense reimbursement guidelines annually. For additional information, please refer to **Policy 7335**.

HOLIDAYS

Holidays for certified staff are dictated in part by the school calendar. Temporary employees will not receive holiday pay. Part-time employees will receive holiday pay on a prorated basis. The District will observe all school holidays as required by statute. When an eligible employee is required to work any of the school holidays, another day shall be granted in lieu of such holiday, unless the employee elects to be paid for the holiday in addition to the employee's regular pay for all time worked on the holiday.

When a school holiday falls on Sunday, the following Monday will not be a holiday. When a school holiday falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday will not be a holiday. When a holiday occurs during a period in which vacation is being taken by an employee, the holiday will not be charged against the employee's annual leave. Please refer to **Policy 5333** for additional information.

LEAVE

In order to provide the highest level of service, employees are expected to be at work and on time every day. However, when circumstances dictate, the District provides leave to its employees pursuant to Montana law, master contracts and individual contracts. Employees who must be absent should inform their immediate supervisor as soon as possible but no later than the start of the scheduled shift. Listed below is general information regarding several types of leave available to employees. Please note that in many cases a written request, submitted for approval before leave begins, is required. **Policies 5321, 5322, and 5328** contain additional information regarding the standards for leave.

Sick Leave and Bereavement Leave

Certified employees will be granted sick leave according to terms of the master contract. Classified employees shall be granted sick leave pursuant to Montana law governing public employees and the master contract. Unless otherwise stated by contract, “sick leave” means a leave of absence, with pay, for an illness suffered by an employee or a member of the employee’s immediate family. “Immediate family” is defined as the employee’s spouse and children residing in the employee’s household.

An employee who has a death in the family is eligible for up to 5 days of paid bereavement leave, which the Director has the authority to approve. Employees seeking more than 5 days of bereavement leave must apply for that leave through the Board. The Board may grant additional, unpaid leave in its sole discretion. For the purposes of bereavement leave, “family” is defined as the employee’s spouse, child, parents/guardians, sibling, grandparents and spouse’s like relations.

Personal and Emergency Leave

Certified employees will be granted personal or discretionary and emergency leave according to the terms of the master contract. Administrators will be granted personal and emergency leave pursuant to the terms of their individual contracts, or at the discretion of the Board. Classified staff will be granted personal or discretionary and emergency leave according to the terms of the master contract. Personal and emergency leave is without pay unless otherwise stated.

Civic Duties Leave

Employees shall be granted leave for service on a jury, in the Legislature or in response to a subpoena in accordance with state law. Each employee who is under proper summons as a juror or witness shall collect all fees and allowances payable as a result of the service and forward the fees to the appropriate accounting office. Juror and witness fees shall be applied against the amount due the employee from his employer. However, if an employee elects to charge his juror or witness time off against his annual leave, he shall not be required to remit his juror fees to his employer. In no instance is an employee required to remit to his employer any expense or mileage allowance paid him by the court.

Military Leave

Employees shall be granted leave for service in the military in accordance with state and federal law. The District will comply with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding the employee’s return to service following military leave.

Vacation Leave

Administrators will be granted vacation leave pursuant to the terms of their individual contracts and Montana law. Classified employees will be granted vacation leave pursuant to Montana law. The District, in its sole discretion, may provide cash compensation for unused vacation leave in lieu of the accumulation of vacation leave.

Maternity Leave

The District will provide maternity leave to its employees pursuant to Montana law.

Adoption Leave

The District may provide leave related to the adoption of a child pursuant to the terms of any master or individual contracts and the law.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE (FMLA)

Eligibility

Employees are eligible if they have worked for the District for at least one (1) year, and for one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) hours over the previous twelve (12) months, **and** if there have been at least fifty (50) District employees within seventy-five (75) miles for each working day during twenty (20) or more workweeks in the current or preceding calendar year.

Length/Purpose of Leave

In accordance with provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), a leave of absence of up to twelve (12) weeks during a twelve-(12)-month period may be granted to an eligible employee for the following reasons: 1) birth of a child; 2) placement of a child for adoption or foster care; 3) a serious health condition which makes the employee unable to perform functions of the job; 4) to care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition; 5) because of a qualifying exigency (as the Secretary shall, by regulation, determine) arising out of the fact that the spouse or a son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on covered active duty as a member of the regular Armed Forces or is on covered active duty or is under a call or order to covered active duty as a Member of the National Guard or Reserves.

Servicemember Family Leave

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember, who is a current member (or a member on the temporary disability retired list) of the Regular Armed Forces, National Guard, Reserves, or is a veteran who has incurred an injury or illness in the line of duty while on active duty, shall be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of leave during a twelve-(12)-month period to care for the servicemember. The leave described in this paragraph shall only be available during a single twelve-(12)-month period.

For additional information, please refer to **Policy 5328**.

PERSONNEL MANAGMENT

EMPLOYMENT AND ASSIGNMENT

Each certificated employee will be employed under a written contract, subject to the terms and conditions of the master contract and District policies. Renewal and non-renewal will be determined by the Board after receiving a recommendation from the Superintendent and in conformance with law.

Each classified employee will be employed under a written contract for a specified term, with a beginning and ending date. Such employees shall have no expectation of continued employment from year to year, and contracts of employment may be renewed or non-renewed each year, at the District's sole option. The District reserves the right to change employment conditions affecting an employee's duties, assignment, supervisor, or grade.

The Superintendent may assign, reassign, and/or transfer positions and duties of all staff, subject to any provisions contained in the master contract. The Superintendent will provide for a system of assignment, reassignment, and transfer of classified staff, including voluntary transfers and promotions. Nothing in this policy prevents reassignment of a staff member during a school year. For additional information, please see **Policy 5210**.

EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE

District employees who fail to fulfill their job responsibilities or to follow reasonable directions of their supervisors, or who conduct themselves on or off the job in ways that affect their effectiveness on the job, may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Behavior, conduct, or action that may call for disciplinary action or dismissal includes, but is not limited to, reasonable job-related grounds based on a failure to satisfactorily perform job duties, disruption of the District or member school district's operation, or other legitimate reasons.

Discipline will be reasonably appropriate to the circumstance and will include, but not be limited to, a supervisor's right to reprimand an employee and the Superintendent's right to suspend an employee, with or without pay, or to impose other appropriate disciplinary sanctions. In accordance with Montana law, only the Board may terminate an employee or non-renew employment. **Policies 5250 and 5255** contain additional information.

No public officer or public employee shall retaliate against or condone or threaten to retaliate against an individual who, in good faith, alleges waste, fraud or abuse.

EVALUATIONS

Each non-administrative staff member's job performance will be evaluated by the staff member's direct supervisor. The evaluation process includes scheduled annual evaluations using forms applicable to the job classification and description, and day-to-day appraisals. Certified staff members shall be evaluated according to the terms stated in any master contract or pursuant to **Policy 5222**. Employees have a right to access to the evaluation instrument and the right to respond in writing to the completed evaluation.

The supervisor will provide a copy of the completed evaluation to the staff member and will provide an opportunity to discuss the evaluation. The original should be signed by the staff member and filed in the staff member's personnel file. If the staff member refuses to sign the evaluation, the supervisor should note the refusal and submit the evaluation to the Superintendent. Staff members may have up to 10 working days to submit a rebuttal to the evaluation for inclusion in the file. Failure to sign an evaluation form noting receipt may subject the employee to discipline. For more information regarding evaluation of non-administrative staff, please refer to **Policy 5222**.

PERSONNEL RECORDS

The District maintains a complete personnel record for every current and former employee. The employees' personnel records will be maintained in the District's administrative office. Employees and their designees will be given supervised access to their personnel records in the administrative office. Copies may be given to employees and their designees, but under no circumstances may the original file leave the administrative office. In addition to the Superintendent or other designees, the Board may grant a member of the Board access to cumulative personnel files. Counsel retained by the Board will also have access to a

cumulative personnel file if necessary. Personnel records will be maintained for 10 years after the employee has left the District's employment.

No material derogatory to an employee's conduct, service, character, or personality shall be placed in the file, unless the employee has had the opportunity to review the material. The employee shall be entitled to respond to the material and to have that response placed in the file, if requested in a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 10 working days.

MEETINGS

Staff meetings are scheduled for the purpose of organization and communication of business that typically cannot be handled through staff bulletins, departmental or committee structure. All staff are expected to attend staff meetings unless prior arrangements have been made with the building principal. Meetings sponsored or called by recognized collective bargaining units during contract hours are subject to prior approval of the building principal. Attendance of staff members at such meetings is left to the discretion of each employee.

WORKING HOURS

Regular working hours for all classified staff will be set by the Superintendent. Classified staff are not to work before, beyond, or outside their established working hours and are not to work overtime without prior authorization from the superintendent.

All time sheets must be a true reflection of all time worked, whether it is more or less than regularly scheduled work hours. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action in accordance with applicable provisions of Board policy and negotiated agreements.

Certified staff will be provided prep periods/planning time in accordance with the master agreement.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Board recognizes the importance of continued educational experiences and other professional growth activities as a means to improve job performance.

Professional growth experiences may include, but are not limited to, college courses, workshops, curriculum planning, individual research, travel, supervision of teacher trainees, and other such activities.

All workshops/seminars will need prior approval of the Board. Since the Board generally meets once per month, it will be very important for staff members to plan ahead. The procedure will be for the staff member to make a request to the board prior to the workshop/seminar by submitting to the superintendent [to be included on the board agenda] a completed absence form with the section entitled "Professional Leave" completed along with any pertinent information documents. Staff members will need to submit the request to the superintendent five days prior to the board meeting.

Meetings and conferences devoted primarily or exclusively to organizational or business affairs of staff member collective bargaining units, political workshops, training sessions for consultation committees, and like activities will not be considered as appropriate activities for the expenditure of district funds.

RESIGNATION OF STAFF

Certified and classified personnel will generally be expected to fulfill the terms of their contract unless there are clearly compelling, mitigating circumstances which prevent the certified or exempt individual from doing so.

The Board has authorized the Superintendent to accept on its behalf resignations from any school district employee. The Superintendent shall provide written acceptance of the resignation, including the date of acceptance, to the employee, setting forth the effective date of the resignation.

For more information, please refer to **Policy 5251**.

RETIREMENT

To assist the District in its planning efforts, staff members considering retirement are encouraged to notify the District as early as possible, preferably at the beginning of the school year in which the retirement will take place. For more information regarding evaluation of non-administrative staff, please refer to **Policy 5253**.

EMPLOYEE CONDUCT

Absenteeism and Tardiness

Regular and timely attendance is an essential function of each position within the District. Employees are expected to report for work on time and to notify their immediate supervisor if they must be tardy or absent. Failure to provide regular and timely attendance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Checkout

Workday Checkout

Teachers may leave the building and district grounds during lunch as necessary. Departures during preparation periods must be approved by the building principal or assistant principal. Classified staff are permitted to leave the building and district grounds during their lunch break.

Year-end Checkout

The building principal will collect all staff keys prior to the issuance of final paychecks, unless assigned duties require continued access. Additionally, a completed check-out form will be required, including a completed inventory.

Staff Workroom

A staff room is provided for staff use during break, lunch, and preparation periods as may be appropriate. All staff are expected to “pitch in,” as needed, to help keep this gathering area clean and orderly.

Personal items of value should not be left in the staff room. Staff members leaving such items in the staff room do so at their own risk.

Students are not permitted in the staff workroom.

Disrupting the Educational Process

Any employee who participates in or encourages activities that disrupt the educational process or the operations of the District may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination. **Policy 5255.**

Behavior that disrupts the educational process includes, but is not limited to:

- Conduct that threatens the health, safety or welfare of others;
- Conduct that may damage public or private property (including the property of students or staff);
- Illegal activity;
- Conduct that interferes with a student's access to educational opportunities or programs, including ability to attend, participate in, and benefit from instructional and extracurricular activities; or
- Conduct that disrupts delivery of instructional services or interferes with the orderly administration of the District, school and school-related activities or District operations.

Contact Information

Employees are required to annually update their contact information, including personal phone number and home physical address, at the beginning of each school. If an employee's contact information changes at any time after the beginning of the school year, the employee is required to update his/her contact information to the current information. Unless required by law or pursuant to prior written authorization of the employee, employee contact information will not be released by the District.

Contact Julia PlainBull to update contact information.

Drug-Free/Alcohol-Free Schools

Employees must not manufacture, distribute, dispense, be under the influence of, purchase, possess, use, or attempt to obtain in the workplace or in the performance of duties, alcohol or any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana (including medical marijuana) or any other controlled substance. For purposes of this regulation, a controlled substance is one that is not legally obtainable, or one that is legally obtainable and not being used as prescribed, or referenced in federal and state controlled substance acts. Any employee who violates the terms of the District's drug-free/alcohol-free policies may be suspended, nonrenewed or terminated. Violations may result in notification of appropriate legal officials. Any employee convicted of a workplace violation of drug abuse statutes must notify his or her supervisor of the conviction within five (5) working days. For additional information, please refer to **Policy 5226.**

The use of any legally obtained prescription drug or other controlled substance (including medical marijuana) by any employee while performing their duties or while in a school facility is prohibited to the extent such use may affect the safety of the employee, co-workers, or members of the public, the employee's job performance, or the safe and efficient operation of school facilities. Employees are required to advise their supervisor if they are taking a legal prescription drug or other controlled substance (including medical marijuana) that may have adverse effects on their ability to perform their job safely and efficiently. The supervisor, in conjunction with administration, shall determine whether the employee poses a threat to his or her own safety, the safety of other employees, or significantly affects his or her job performance if using the legally obtained prescription drug or other controlled substance (including medical marijuana) and can continue working. The District will provide reasonable accommodations as required by law for an employee who cannot safely perform his or her job duties because of use of a legally obtained prescription drug or other controlled substance (including medical marijuana).

Weapons

Carrying, bringing, using or possessing any weapon or dangerous instrument in any District building, school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited. Except for authorized law enforcement officials, the District prohibits carrying concealed weapons on District property. Staff members who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

Dress and Appearance

District employees are required to dress in a professional manner. No mode of attire will be considered proper if it distracts from or is disruptive of the positive learning environment of the school to which the employee is assigned or the District office.

Breastfeeding Accommodations

The District will provide reasonable accommodations for breastfeeding mothers, including access to a private area to express breast milk or breastfeed an infant child, permission to bring a breast pump and any other equipment to express breast milk, access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment for expressing breast milk, and access to a place to store expressed breast milk safely.

For more information, please refer to **Policy 5325**.

Participation in Political Activities

District employees may exercise their right to participate fully in affairs of public interest on a local, county, state, and national level, on the same basis as any citizen in public or private employment and within the law. Employees may, within the limitations imposed by state and federal laws and regulations, choose any side of a particular issue and support their viewpoints as they desire, by vote, discussion, or persuading others. Such discussion and persuasion, however, may not be carried on during the performance of district duties. For more information, please refer to **Policy 5224**.

Participation in Religious Activities

Employees may not encourage, discourage, persuade, dissuade, sponsor, participate in, or discriminate against a religious activity or an activity because of its religious content while in the course of performing official duties of that employee's position(s) with the District. Please see **Policy 2332**.

Tobacco and Marijuana Products

The District maintains tobacco- and marijuana-free buildings and grounds, as required by Montana law. Tobacco includes, but is not limited to, vapor products, cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, alternative nicotine products or any other tobacco or nicotine innovation. Marijuana products are products that contain marijuana for use by a consumer and include but are not limited to edible products, ointments, tinctures, marijuana derivatives, marijuana concentrates, and marijuana intended for use by smoking or vaping. Use of tobacco and marijuana products will not be allowed in any District school district buildings, grounds or vehicles, or while on duty during District-sponsored events. However, nothing prohibits an employee from using a smoking cessation product on Cooperative or district property. An employee may use a tobacco product, vapor product, alternative nicotine product, or marijuana product in a classroom or otherwise on District school property as part of a lecture, demonstration, or educational forum concerning the risks of such product with prior notice and approval of the building administrator. Please see **Policy 5226**.

Fundraising Activities

Activities to raise money for a wide variety of school activities and equipment are held at various times throughout the course of the school year. All fundraising activities must be conducted under the direct supervision of staff or other authorized individuals and approved by the superintendent prior to the activity being initiated. Fundraising requests must include an explanation or justification for the proposal, consistent with building and/or district goals. Fundraising must not interfere with or disrupt school.

All money raised must be received and deposited with the district. Staff and students should take all reasonable precautions to provide for the security of any items/materials/products being sold. Staff members are directed to follow established building procedures for the depositing of funds collected. At no time should money collected be allowed to accumulate in classrooms, lockers, or other unsecured areas. Money collected by staff as a result of fundraisers or other school-related purposes is to be deposited in the school office at the end of the school day. Please see **Policy 4210**.

Purchasing

No obligation may be incurred by any staff member, unless that expenditure has been authorized in the budget or as may otherwise be permitted by the superintendent.

No purchase will be authorized unless covered by an approved purchase order. A staff member who purchases an item or items without prior authorization from the superintendent may not receive reimbursement. Purchase orders will be processed bi weekly on the Wednesday following the Friday pay period.

For more information, please see **Policies 7320, 7326, and 7335**.

Use of School Property/Electronic Communication System/Social Networking Pages

Employees may not use any District facility, vehicle, electronic communication system, equipment, or materials to perform outside work. These items (including security codes and electronic records such as e-mail) are District property. Employees may not use a code, access a file, or retrieve any stored communication unless they have been given authorization to do so. Employees cannot expect confidentiality or privacy of the information in their e-mail accounts and should review **Policy 5450** for specific information regarding use of the Internet. Authorized District personnel may monitor the use of

electronic equipment from time to time, and violations of **Policies 5450 and 5460** may result in discipline up to and including termination.

The on-campus and off-campus conduct of employees may impact their ability to function professionally and effectively in the District. Given student and parent interest in and use of electronic media, this is especially true as related to employees' action on electronic social networking websites. Employees may not set up or update their personal electronic social networking websites using the District's computers, network or equipment. Employees who set up personal electronic social networking webpages on their home or personal computers are responsible for the content of their webpages, including but not limited to: content added by employees, their friends or members of the public who can access their webpages; or content that is linked to the employees' webpages.

Employees who set up personal websites or web pages do so at their own risk; however, employees are strongly encouraged to keep their personal web pages private and to prevent students and the parents of students from accessing their personal webpages.

Staff members should use district-owned vehicles whenever possible, scheduling activities and other transportation far enough in advance to avoid any non-emergency use of private vehicles. No staff members may use a private vehicle for district business without permission from the superintendent. Employees who drive any District-owned vehicle and who receive a traffic citation during the year must report the citation to the Superintendent immediately. Only school employees are allowed in school vehicles. No family members are allowed to be in a school vehicle.

Health, Safety and Security

It is the intent of the District to provide a safe and healthful working environment for all employees. Employees should report any security hazard or conditions they believe to be unsafe to their immediate supervisor. The District may require the use of personal protective equipment, including but not limited to face masks, if necessary for the safety and welfare of staff and students. For information on the District's Safety Plan and Bloodborne Pathogen Control Plan, contact your immediate supervisor or see the District's *Policy Manual* and related procedures. **Policy 8301** contains more detailed information regarding these measures.

In order to assure the safety of staff and students, information and/or training, as necessary, is provided to assist all staff to recognize and to respond appropriately to the presence of hazardous materials in the workplace, including proper handling, labeling, storage, and disposal of such materials.

All staff members are expected to conduct their work in compliance with first aid and infection control procedures established by the district and the following safety rules of the district:

1. All injuries shall be reported immediately to the person in charge or other responsible representative of the district;
2. It is the duty of all employees to make full use of safeguards provided for their protection. It shall be the employee's responsibility to abide by and perform the following requirements:
 - a. An employee shall not operate a machine unless guard or method of guarding is in good condition, working order, in place and operative;
 - b. An employee shall stop the machine or moving parts and properly tag-out or lock-out the starting control before oiling, adjusting, or repairing, except when such machine is provided with means of oiling or adjusting that will prevent possibility of hazardous contact with moving parts;

- c. An employee shall not remove guards or render methods of guarding inoperative, except for the purpose of adjustment, oiling, repair, or setting up a new job;
 - d. Employees shall report to their supervisor any guard or method of guarding that is not properly adjusted or not accomplishing its intended function;
 - e. Employees shall not use their hands or any portion of their bodies to reach between moving parts or to remove jams, hang-ups, etc. (use hook, stick, tong, jig, or other accessory);
 - f. Employees shall not work under objects being supported that could accidentally fall (such as loads supported by jacks, the raised body of a dump truck, etc.), until such objects are properly blocked or shored;
 - g. Employees shall not use defective tools or equipment. No tool or piece of equipment should be used for any purpose for which it is not suited, and none should be abused by straining beyond its safe working load;
3. Employees shall not remove, deface, or destroy any warning, danger sign, or barricade or interfere with any other form of accident prevention device or practice provided on any machine, tool, or piece of equipment which they are using or which is being used by any other worker;
 4. Employees must not work underneath or over others, thereby exposing them to a hazard without first notifying the other employee(s) or seeing that proper safeguards or precautions have been taken;
 5. Employees shall not work in unprotected, exposed, or hazardous areas under floor openings;
 6. Long or unwieldy articles shall not be carried or moved, unless adequate means of guarding or guiding are provided to prevent injury;
 7. Hazardous conditions or practices observed at any time shall be reported as soon as practicable to the person in charge or some other responsible representative of the employer;
 8. Employees observed working in a manner which might cause immediate injury to either themselves or other workers shall be warned of the danger;
 9. Before leaving a job, workers shall correct, or arrange to give warning of, any condition which might result in injury to others unfamiliar with existing conditions;
 10. Good housekeeping methods shall be observed in all operations. Materials shall be so handled and stored as to minimize falling, tripping, or collision hazards;
 11. Working and storage areas and passageways shall be kept free of unnecessary obstructions. No loose object shall be placed in any area where its presence will necessitate employees crowding between such objects as moving machinery, steam pipes, or other objects with which contact would be dangerous;
 12. Any materials which might cause an employee to slip or fall shall be removed from floors and other treading surfaces immediately, or suitable means or methods shall be used to control the hazardous condition;
 13. All sharp, pointed, or otherwise hazardous projections in work areas shall be removed or rendered harmless.

Except for those vaccinations required by law, the District will not discriminate against an employee by denying or withholding employment opportunities based upon the employee's vaccination status.

Disaster Drills

All teachers will discuss fire drill procedures with their class at the beginning of each year. The drills will be held at different hours of the day or evening to avoid distinction between drills and actual disasters.

A map/diagram of the fire escape route to be followed should be posted near the classroom doorways and reviewed with students. Upon the sounding of a fire alarm, teachers are required to:

1. Immediately direct all students to orderly exit the building using the evacuation route posted. Students may not stop at lockers, drinking fountains, restrooms, etc., along the way;
2. Close windows, turn off lights, and [lock door/leave door unlocked];
3. Take roll book;
4. Escort class at least 50 feet from the building and take roll. Report any unaccounted students to the [building principal];
5. Upon "all clear" signal, [announced by administration, not on bell/alarm signal], escort students directly back to class. Check roll.

Classroom Security

When leaving the classroom, locker room, or other work areas between classes or at the end of the day, teachers are expected to turn out the lights and secure all doors. Windows should also be secured at day's end.

All staff members are asked to refrain from keeping personal items of value in or about their desks. Purses should never be left unsecured. Students should be instructed to leave valuables at home. The District will not be responsible for the loss of, or damage to, personal property due to such causes as fire, theft, accident, or vandalism.

Keys

Keys are issued to staff by the Superintendent. In order to protect property, students, and staff and to ensure the building is adequately secured when no authorized personnel are present, all staff are expected to follow the following key-control procedures:

1. The duplication of keys is prohibited;
2. Keys are not to be left unattended. Avoid having keys on desks, tables, in mailboxes, unattended coat pockets, etc.;
3. Keys may not be loaned [to students or to individuals not employed by the district]. Under no circumstance should staff provide keys to students to "run errands", "unlock/lock" doors, etc.;
4. Lost or stolen keys must be reported to the superintendent within 24 hours of discovery of the loss or theft so that measures may be taken to protect district property;
5. Charges for lost or stolen keys may be made to the staff member to whom the key(s) have been issued.
6. All keys are to be checked in at the end of the school year. Staff with summer duties necessitating building access may make arrangements with the [building principal] to keep their keys as appropriate.

Assaults and Threats of Violence

Employees should immediately report any threats they receive (oral or written) to their immediate supervisor and to the appropriate District official.

Child Abuse

A District employee who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a student may be an abused or neglected child (which includes but is not limited to child sex trafficking and human trafficking), regardless of whether the person suspected of causing the abuse or neglect is a parent or other person responsible for

the child's welfare, shall report such a case to the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and notify the building administrator that a report has been made. The hotline is 866-820-5437.

An employee does not discharge the obligation to personally report by notifying the Superintendent or building administrator. Any District employee who fails to report a suspected case of abuse or neglect to the Department of Public Health and Human Services, or who prevents another person from doing so, may be civilly liable for damages proximately caused by such failure or prevention and is guilty of a misdemeanor. The employee will also be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. In the event that a DPHHS reveals information to an employee after he or she makes a report or requests that information be shared with another employee, employees receiving such information shall keep the information confidential. Please refer to **Policy 5232**.

Curriculum and Supplementary Materials

The curriculum established for the courses and grade levels of this district provides the flexibility necessary to meet the individual needs of students and their divergent learning rates and styles.

Deviations from established curriculum, textbooks, and instructional materials are not permitted without prior building principal approval. Teachers with questions should contact the building principal. Though teaching methodology may vary, classroom instruction is expected to reflect "best practices" consistent with research on effective instruction. The District may receive and/or provide remote, offsite, and technology delivered learning programs, as provided in Montana law and set forth in District procedures.

Parents/guardians must be given at least 48-hours notice before any "human sexuality instruction" is scheduled to occur. "Human sexuality instruction" means teaching or otherwise providing information about human sexuality, including intimate relationships, human sexual anatomy, sexual reproduction, sexually transmitted infections, sexual acts, sexual orientation, gender identity, abstinence, contraception, or reproductive rights and responsibilities. A parent/guardian may excuse a student from attending a scheduled class period, assembly, school function, or other instruction when the subject matter is related to human sexuality. Such absence is considered to be an excused absence. For more information, please refer to **Policy 2135**.

Parents/guardians may also excuse their child from instruction, presentations, assemblies, guest lectures, or other educational events at the school that offend the parent's beliefs or practices. Parents/guardians must be directed to the building administrator to discuss such excusal.

Supplementary materials from non-school sources require building principal approval prior to their use in school. This includes educational films and all video rentals secured from or through commercial sources. Generally, materials that are of obvious educational quality, supplement and enrich instructional and reference materials for definite school courses, and are timely may be considered for approval.

Building principal approval is required prior to showing a feature film/video to students in district classrooms. Only films/videos rated G, PG, or PG-13 may be authorized for classroom use.

Requests are to be submitted to the building principal at least five days prior to the proposed showing.

The following information should be included in the request:

1. Title and brief description;
2. Purpose for the showing;
3. Match with course objectives;

4. Proposed date of showing;
5. When and how parents will be notified, or if necessary grant consent;
6. Audience rating.

The showing of all feature films/videos with a G rating requires prior parent notification from the staff member. Feature films/videos with a PG or PG-13 rating must have prior parental consent.

Guest Speakers/Controversial Speakers

Guest speakers may be used by teachers from time to time, when such use is consistent with educational goals and with a demonstrable relation to the curricular or co-curricular activity in which the participating students are involved. Teachers are expected to inform the building principal of the date, time, and nature of the presentation whenever such use is planned.

Prior Superintendent approval is required whenever the guest speaker and/or presentation may be reasonably considered controversial.

Lesson Plans

The quality of the instructional program reflects the effort invested by teachers in developing lesson plans consistent with district curriculum and appropriate to the individual needs of students. Lesson plans must be submitted to the building principal no later than 5pm Sunday before the instructional week.

Gifts and Solicitation

Staff members are to avoid accepting anything of value offered by another for the purpose of influencing his/her professional judgment. No organization may solicit funds from staff members within the schools, nor may anyone distribute flyers or other materials related to fund drives through the school without building principal approval. The solicitation of staff by sales people, other staff, or agents during on-duty hours is prohibited without building principal approval. Any solicitation should be reported at once to the building principal.

Grievances/Communications

District employees shall use the Complaint Procedure to address complaints/concerns about District policies, procedures and directives that cannot be resolved informally. Employees covered by a master negotiated contract must use the grievance procedure in that contract to address alleged violations of that contract. **Policy 1700** contains the District's Uniform Grievance Procedure, which applies to all grievances except for those relating to 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 disability discrimination. A written copy of the District's Uniform Grievance Procedure can be obtained from the Superintendent's office.

District employees shall use the Title IX Grievance Procedure to address complaints/concerns about sexual discrimination. A copy of the Title IX Grievance Procedures if available at <https://www.pryorwarriors.org/> or at any district or school office.

District employees shall use the Section 504 Grievance Procedures to address complaints/concerns about disability discrimination. A copy of the Section 504 Grievance Procedures if available at <https://www.pryorwarriors.org/> or at any district or school office.

Sexual-Based Harassment

Sex-based harassment is a form of sex discrimination and means sexual harassment and other harassment on the basis of sex, including on the basis of sex stereotypes, sex characteristics, pregnancy or related conditions, sexual orientation, and gender identity, that is:

- (1) *Quid pro quo harassment*. An employee, agent, or other person authorized by the recipient to provide an aid, benefit, or service under the recipient's education program or activity explicitly or impliedly conditioning the provision of such an aid, benefit, or service on a person's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- (2) *Hostile environment harassment*. Unwelcome sex-based conduct that, based on the totality of the circumstances, is subjectively and objectively offensive and is so severe or pervasive that it limits or denies a person's ability to participate in or benefit from the recipient's education program or activity (*i.e.*, creates a hostile environment). Whether a hostile environment has been created is a fact-specific inquiry that includes consideration of the following:
 - (i) The degree to which the conduct affected the complainant's ability to access the recipient's education program or activity;
 - (ii) The type, frequency, and duration of the conduct;
 - (iii) The parties' age, roles within the recipient's education program or activity, previous interactions, and other factors about each party that may be relevant to evaluating the effects of the conduct;
 - (iv) The location of the conduct and the context in which the conduct occurred; and
 - (v) Other sex-based harassment in the recipient's education program or activity; or
- (3) *Specific offenses*.
 - (i) Sexual assault meaning an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
 - (ii) Dating violence meaning violence committed by a person:
 - (A) Who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
 - (B) Where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - (1) The length of the relationship;
 - (2) The type of relationship; and
 - (3) The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship;
 - (iii) Domestic violence meaning felony misdemeanor crimes committed by a person who:
 - (A) Is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction of the recipient, or a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;
 - (B) Is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
 - (C) Shares a child in common with the victim; or
 - (D) Commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family 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.

A determination of responsibility resulting from a formal complaint against an employee for engaging in sex-based harassment will result in appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination from employment.

Complaints may be submitted via the District's Title IX Grievance Procedure. Please refer to **Policies 5012 and 5015** for additional information regarding the District's prohibition against discrimination and harassment.

Outside Employment or Activities

Employees may not perform any duties related to an outside job during their regular working hours.

INTERACTION WITH STUDENTS

ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS TO STUDENTS

Students who must take prescription and/or over-the-counter medication at school, on a temporary or regular basis, must provide a written request to administer medication, signed by the parent. All medications will be kept in locked storage in the office unless a student is authorized to carry medication on his/her person during the school day. Parents of students who must carry and self-administer medication must complete the Montana Authorization to Possess or Self-Administer Medication form and return it to the building office.

Teachers may be expected to assist students in remembering when a medication is scheduled to be administered. If the student refuses to take medication, teachers are expected to notify the parent whenever possible. Attempts to contact parents must be documented as to date and time. A teacher may not administer medication to a student without parental consent and an appropriate delegation by the school nurse. Delegation of certain tasks, including the administration of medication, to school employees may be made by a licensed nurse pursuant to Montana law.

Please refer to **Policy 3416**.

CLASS INTERRUPTIONS

The District is committed to protecting instructional time. Class interruptions of any kind will be kept to a minimum. Students are not to be permitted to interrupt a class in session without authorization from an administrator or the classroom teacher. Intercom use is restricted to administrative use or administrative approved use only.

CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS

The District cooperates with individuals, community organizations, and agencies desiring to sponsor contests for students, when such activities can be integrated into the school program without disruption or loss of instructional time for the student and without imposing an unreasonable added work load on staff. All such contests must be consistent with the purposes and educational aims of the district.

Teachers sponsoring such activities are responsible for the preparation and circulation of all informational materials and for other administrative work required in the grading, judging, or evaluation of the participants' work.

School facilities and equipment/supplies may not be used to promote private or commercial interests, nor may the school be used for the direct sales promotion of individual competitive goods or services.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

The use of corporal punishment in any form is strictly prohibited by the District. Corporal punishment is defined as the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain.

A staff member is authorized to use reasonable force when, in his/her professional judgment, the physical force is necessary to maintain safety for other students, school personnel, or other persons, or for the purpose of self-defense.

DISMISSAL OF CLASSES

Teachers should never dismiss a class before the established dismissal time. Detaining the entire class after dismissal time is also discouraged. Whenever individual students are detained after class, the teacher is expected to provide the student a note for the student's next class teacher. This will help reduce unnecessary hall traffic, as students reporting to class late will need to account for their tardiness.

FIELD TRIPS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Field trips and other student activities involving travel may be authorized by the building principal, when such trips or activities contribute to the achievement of desirable educational goals.

Requests should be submitted to the building principal well in advance of the proposed activity. All such requests will be considered, based on such factors as availability of funds, the educational value derived, the safety and welfare of the students involved, impact on the regular school program, and availability of appropriate supervision, either from within school staff or from volunteers.

Written parental permission must be obtained for each approved trip. Teachers are expected to submit the signed forms showing parental approval and acknowledgment of the student conduct guidelines, to the office prior to departure for the scheduled activity.

Staff members should contact the office for appropriate substitute and vehicle arrangements and related field trip procedures and forms.

Any out-of-state or out-of-the-country travel or field trips that extend overnight must be approved by the Board.

For additional information, please refer to **Policy 2320**.

GRADING

The evaluation of student progress is a primary responsibility of all teachers. The highest possible level of student achievement is a common goal of both the district and the home. As a close working relationship between the district and the home is essential to the accomplishment of this goal, regular communications with parents is essential.

Teachers should use a variety of communication devices, including telephone and personal conferences as well as written grade reports, to keep parents well informed. At the beginning of the grading period, students and parents are to be informed regarding the basis of the grades and the methods to be used in determining grades.

Teachers are expected to report their students' progress to the students and their parents. Progress reports are issued at the midway point of the first, second, third, and fourth quarter grading periods, indicating academic and citizenship progress to date. Additionally, two grades per class will be posted weekly, by 8:00 am Wednesday morning.

Such reports may be issued at other times during the course of a grading period as deemed appropriate by teachers.

Students may alternatively be evaluated based upon proficiency as set out in **Policy 2422**.

GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Each of the four classes of Plenty Coups High School are composed of students who have the required number of semester credits. Grade classification will be determined at the beginning of the academic school year only.

Classification Credits

Freshman 0 – 5

Sophomore 6 – 11

Junior 12 – 16

Senior 17+

GRADING GUIDELINES

Grades assigned by a teacher cannot be changed except by that teacher after discussions involving the student, teacher, and administrator. Teachers will use the following grading system for daily work in their classes. The lowest passing grade is a 60 or a D-. The following is a breakdown of the grading

scale and the letter equivalents:

A= 90 – 100

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = 59 and below

Students will not be able to initiate course drops later than the 2nd day of classes each semester.

Students may not change courses at the semester unless they are finishing requirements that only call

for 1/2 credit or other extreme situations that warrant change. Each change must have the approval of the principal. The principal's decision may not be appealed.

HOMEWORK

Teachers at all grade levels are encouraged to consistently assign homework, which is expected to increase in complexity with the maturity or grade level of the student.

Homework may refer to an assignment prepared during a period of supervised study in class or outside of class or which requires individual work in the home

Homework is expected to be designed to improve learning, to aid in the mastery of skills and to stimulate interest on the part of the student.

The information for any homework assignment should be clear and specific so that the student can complete the assignment. Homework should not require the use of reference materials not readily available in most homes, school libraries, or the public library. Homework should require the use of those materials only when the student has had instruction in such use.

MEDIA ACCESS TO STUDENTS

Media representatives are required to report to the building principal for prior approval before accessing students involved in instructional programs and activities not attended by the general public. No employee shall permit media access to any student without prior approval of the building administrator, who shall ensure parents are notified prior to any media access.

MOVING CLASSES/HOLDING CLASSES OUTDOORS

From time to time, teachers may find it necessary to temporarily move a class from their scheduled room or teaching area. Teachers are responsible for ensuring that both the office and students are informed of the change.

As holding classes outdoors often presents a distraction to students in the class, as well as to staff and students in other classrooms, teachers are expected to conduct their classes in their scheduled rooms unless otherwise assigned by the building principal.

From time to time, certain class assignments may be more appropriately conducted outdoors. Prior building principal approval is required for all such activities (exception is for Physical Education classes).

RECORDING STUDENTS

The District may 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. Employees may not audio or video record students outside of the security and surveillance recording done without prior parent permission.

RESUSCITATION

No staff member may comply with any directive from parents or others, written or verbal, that life-sustaining emergency care be withheld from a student in need of such care while under the control and supervision of district staff.

Life-sustaining emergency care means any procedure or intervention applied by appropriately trained district staff that may prevent a student from dying who, without such procedure or intervention,

faces a risk of imminent death. Examples of life-sustaining emergency care may include: efforts to stop bleeding, unblocking airways, mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

In a life-threatening situation, staff members are expected to dial 911 for paramedic assistance and provide life-sustaining emergency care to any student requiring it in order to sustain life, until relieved by paramedics or other appropriate medical personnel.

STUDENT CONDUCT

In addition to adopted Board policies governing student conduct, administrative regulations specifying student-conduct expectations have been established. These rules apply to actions which occur on district property, at any district-sponsored activity regardless of location; or when traveling to or from school for district-sponsored activities. Disregard of these rules constitutes grounds for suspension, expulsion, or other reasonable disciplinary action.

All teachers are expected to review the student conduct rules contained in the Student Handbook with their students during the first week of the school year.

Student conduct rules unique to individual classrooms may also be developed by teachers. All such rules must be consistent with district policy and local building administrative regulations governing student conduct and discipline. Classroom rules and consequences are to be reviewed with students, posted in classrooms, and made available to parents.

Staff members must notify law enforcement and/or the Department of Public Health and Human Services if they know or reasonably believe that allegations of bullying, harassment, or intimidation involving a student constitutes criminal activity or child abuse or neglect. Staff members must notify their supervisor or an administrator in the event that such a report has been or will be made.

If a staff member has concerns about the safety of a student, the staff member must contact an administrator and/or a counselor immediately. If a staff member is concerned that a student is being bullied or harassed, the staff member must notify an administrator. If a staff member has knowledge of conduct that may constitute discrimination on the basis of race or disability, the staff member must promptly notify the District's nondiscrimination and/or Section 504 coordinator.

If a staff member has knowledge of conduct that reasonably may constitute sex discrimination, he or she must promptly report that information to the Title IX Coordinator.

If a staff member is informed by a student or a parent/guardian of a student's pregnancy or related condition, the staff member must provide the student or parent/guardian with the Title IX's Coordinator's contact information and role.

STUDENT/PARENT COMPLAINTS

The District recognizes that complaints regarding staff performance, discipline, grades, student progress, and homework assignments will be made by students and parents from time to time. Every effort will be made to ensure that such complaints are handled and resolved informally and as close to their origin as possible. Students, parents, and others with complaints will be encouraged to discuss the complaint directly with the staff member. All such meetings should be held in confidence and not in the presence of others.

If the complaint is not informally resolved, staff should advise the complainant that he/she may submit a complaint under the applicable grievance procedure – Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Procedure, Section 504 Grievance Procedure, or the Uniform Grievance Procedure (**Board Policy 1700**).

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Staff members are responsible for the supervision of all students while in school, attending an assembly, or engaged in school-sponsored activities.

All teachers are expected to be in their classrooms prior to the arrival of students.

Under no circumstances are classrooms or other areas where students are under the supervision of assigned staff to be left unattended while students are present. Teachers who may need to temporarily leave the classroom or their assigned duties in an emergency situation while students are present are expected to contact the office to arrange for temporary coverage.

No other staff member may leave their assigned group unsupervised except as appropriate supervision arrangements have been made to take care of an emergency.

During school hours or while engaged in school-sponsored activities, students may be released only into the custody of parents or other authorized persons.

VISITORS

Students are not permitted to bring visitors to school without prior approval of the building principal.

Staff members are expected to report any unauthorized person on school property to the building principal.



Pryor Public Schools

Districts 2 & 3

2024-2025

Pryorwarriors.org
(406) 259-7329

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No School Dates		Quarters	
August 26-27	PIR Days (prior to school start)	November 4	End of 1st Quarter
September 2	Labor Day	January 24	End of 2nd Quarter
October 17-18	Teacher Convention—PIR Days	March 31	End of 3rd Quarter
November 6	Parent Teacher Conferences	June 5	End of 4th Quarter
Nov 28– Dec 2	Thanksgiving Break	Sept 23– 27	Native American Week
Dec. 23 - Jan. 1	Winter Break	October 11	Clan Day (normal school hours)
January 20	PIR-No School		
February 17	PIR-No School		
March 26	Parent/Teacher Conference	August 28	First Day of School
May 26	Memorial Day	June 5	Last Day of School
		June 6	PIR - Grades and Check Out

PIR Days
 Holiday / No School Day
 Parent/Teacher Conference
 Half Day
 End of Quarter/ Semester
 First/Last Day

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

I, _____, have received a copy of the Employee Handbook issued by the District, and understand and agree that I am to review this handbook in detail and to consult District policies and procedures and with my supervisor if I have any questions concerning its contents.

I understand:

1. that this Handbook is intended as a general guide to District personnel policies and procedures and that it is not intended to create any sort of contract between the District and any one or all of its employees;
2. that in the event there is a conflict between this Handbook and District policies and procedures, the policies and procedures will control;
3. that the District may modify any or all of these policies and procedures, in whole or in part, at any time, with or without prior notice; and
4. that in the event the District modifies any of the policies or procedures contained in this Handbook, the changes will become binding on me immediately upon issuance of the new policy or procedure by the District.

I understand that as an employee of the District I am required to review and follow the policies and procedures set forth in this Employee Handbook and I agree to do so.

Signature of Employee

Date

Return this signed form to the District Office.