



Policy 5325 – Employee Use of Social Media Sites, Including Personal Site

Because of the unique nature of social media sites, ~~such as Facebook and Twitter~~, and because of the District's desire to protect its interest with regard to its electronic records, the following rules have been established to address social media site usage by all employees:

Protect Confidential and Proprietary Information

Employees shall not post confidential or proprietary information about the District, its employees, students, agents, or others. The employee shall adhere to all applicable privacy and confidentiality policies adopted by the District or as provided by State or federal law.

Do Not Use the District's Name, Logos, or Images

Employees shall not use the District logos, images, iconography, etc. on personal social media sites. Nor shall employees use the District name to promote a product, cause, political party, or political candidate. Nor shall employees use personal images of students, names, or data relating to students, absent written authority of the parent of a minor or authority of an adult or emancipated student.

Respect District Time and Property

Limited Use of Social Media on District Equipment Permitted

Employees will use email and social media for personal purposes only during non-work times, such as during lunch or before or after school. Employees are prohibited from downloading the Tik Tok app or visiting the TikTok website on any District device or using internet access provided by the District. Any use of permissible social media sites must occur during times and places that the use will not interfere with job duties, negatively impact job performance, or otherwise be disruptive to the school environment or its operation

On Personal Sites

If you identify yourself as a District employee online, it should be clear that the views expressed, posted, or published are personal views, not necessarily those of the District, its Board, employees, or agents.

Opinions expressed by staff on a social networking website have the potential to be disseminated far beyond the speaker's desire or intention, and could undermine the public perception of fitness of the individual to educate students, and thus undermine teaching effectiveness. In this way, the effect of the expression and publication of such



Preston School District #201
Section 5000 - Personnel

opinions could potentially lead to disciplinary action being taken against the staff member, up to and including termination or nonrenewal of the contract of employment

Keep Personal and Professional Accounts Separate

Staff members who decide to engage in professional social media activities will maintain separate professional and personal email addresses. Staff members will not use their District email address for personal social media activities. Use of District email for this purpose is prohibited and will be considered a violation of District policy that may result in disciplinary action.

Contact with Students

~~Although it is desired that staff members have a sincere interest in students as individuals, partiality and the appearance of impropriety must be avoided.~~ Pursuant to the Code of Ethics for Idaho Professional Educators, individuals shall maintain a professional relationship with all students, both inside and outside of the classroom, ~~and all digital communications with students must occur on an approved district device and platform. Excessive informal or social involvement with students is therefore prohibited. This includes:~~ Digital communications with students in violation of the Code of Ethics for Idaho Professional Educators is prohibited. This may include, but not necessarily be limited to:

1. Listing current students as “friends” on ~~social~~ networking sites ~~wherein personal information is shared or available for review which results in the certificated professional employee not maintaining the Code of Ethics requiring professional relationships with students both inside and outside the classroom;~~
2. Contacting students through electronic means other than ~~as described in Policy 5335. the District’s email and telephone system;~~
3. Coaches electronically contacting a team member or members without including an administrator in the communication;
4. Giving private cell phone or home phone numbers to students without prior approval of the District; and
5. Inappropriate contact of any kind including via electronic media.

Nothing in this policy prohibits District staff and students from the ~~appropriate use of the District approved devices and platforms for student communication use of education websites or use of social networking websites created for curricular, co-curricular, or extracurricular purposes~~ where the professional relationship is maintained with the student.



Preston School District #201
Section 5000 - Personnel

Failure to maintain a professional relationship with students, both inside and outside of a classroom setting, including interaction via social networking websites of any nature, e-mailing, texting, or any other electronic methods will result in the required reporting of such conduct to the Professional Standards Commission by the District's Administration.

Legal References:

Legal References	Description
IC § 18-6726	TikTok Use by State Employees on a State-Issued Device Prohibited
Idaho Executive Order	2022-06
IDAPA 08.02.02.076	Code of Ethics for Idaho Professional Educators

Other References	Description
ISBA Policy Services	https://www.idsba.org/member-services/policy/

Cross References

Code	Description
1405	<u>School Board Use of Email and Social Media</u>
3270	<u>District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks</u>
3270-P(1)	<u>District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks - Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks</u>
3270-F(1)	<u>District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Services, and Networks - INTERNET ACCESS CONDUCT AGREEMENT</u>
4170	<u>District or School Operated Social Media</u>
5275	<u>Adult Sexual Misconduct</u>
5330	<u>Employee Electronic Mail and Online Services Usage</u>
5330-F(1)	<u>Employee Electronic Mail and Online Services Usage - Employee Electronic Mail and Online Services Use Policy Acknowledgment</u>
5335	<u>Employee Use of Electronic Communications Devices (Alternatives)</u>
5335-F(1)	<u>Employee Use of Electronic Communications Devices</u>



Preston School District #201
Section 5000 - Personnel

Code

Description

(Alternatives) - MOBILE COMPUTING DEVICE
AGREEMENT

Adopted:
Revised:
Reviewed: