



Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts

Morton School District #214

Home of the Timberwolves!

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Policy: 5254 Staff Expression

Section: - 0000 - 1000 - 2000 - 3000 - 4000 - 5000 - 6000
Planning Board of Instruction Students Community Relations Personnel Management
Directors

The Morton School District board believes the district has an interest in maintaining an orderly and effective work environment while balancing employees' First Amendment rights to freedom of expression and diverse viewpoints and beliefs. When employees speak within their official capacity, their expression represents the district and may be regulated. The First Amendment protects a public employee's speech when the employee is speaking as an individual citizen on a matter of public concern. Even so, employee expression that has an adverse impact on district operations and/or negatively impacts an employee's ability to perform their job for the district may still result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Staff expression includes the performance of job responsibilities and how they represent the district in their use of district email accounts, school district buildings, district property, classrooms and how they present themselves to students.

Employees who use social media platforms are encouraged to remember that the school community may not be able to separate employees as private citizens from their role within the district. Employee expression on social media platforms that interferes with the district's operations or prevents the district from functioning efficiently and effectively may be subject to discipline up to and including termination.

The procedures that accompany this Policy will adhere to this policy and specify particular district standards for staff expression, including the conditions under which a staff member can participate in written or non-verbal expression. Any violation of this Policy or adopted Procedure may result in disciplinary action.

Cross References: 2340 – Religious Related Practices and Activities
 5252 – Staff Participation in Political Activities

Legal References: RCW 41.06.250 Political activities
 RCW 42.17A.555 Use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns - Prohibition - Exceptions
 RCW 42.17A.635 Legislative activities of state agencies, other units of government, elective officials, employees

Management Resources: 2023 - April Policy Issue

The Morton School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX Coordinator/ADA Coordinator/Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator and Superintendent John Hannah, 152 Westlake Avenue, Morton, WA, 98356, 360-496-5300, jhannah@morton.k12.wa.us, or Section 504 Coordinator Jordan Austin, 152 Westlake Avenue, Morton, WA, 98356, 360-496-5137, jaustin@morton.k12.wa.us

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