

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social Media

The Communications Office will regularly maintain and monitor any District-level accounts on third-party social-media sites. Any school or staff accounts used for District-related business must be approved by a principal or program administrator. Usernames and passwords, as well as updates to either, must be registered with the Communications Office and when possible, the Communications Office will be made an administrator to the site(s). Social media is not intended to be used for policy decisions or items of legal and fiscal significance that have not been previously released to the public. Posting content via social media does not constitute giving official notice to the District, and all such notices or related inquiries should be directed to the appropriate program within the District. Any content posted to District created or owned sites may be subject to public disclosure under the Washington State Public Records Act, ch. 42.56 RCW.

All staff members shall adhere to applicable policies and procedures on Responsible Use of Electronic Resources (Policy 2022 and Procedure 2022P) whenever using District computers or networks to access third-party social-media sites or whenever conducting job-related (and therefore public) activity on social-media sites. All students shall adhere to Policy 2022 and Procedure 2022P whenever using District computers or networks to access third party social-media sites, regardless of their purposes in doing so.

Professional Use

Those participating in social media for professional purposes shall use the same considerations used when communicating with others face-to-face in a professional setting, as well as respect the purposes and conventions of the online community in which they participate. Under Washington state law, employees of the Bainbridge Island School District also are responsible for their Professional Code of Conduct and obligations as government and school employees whenever they act within their professional capacity. This includes obligations to maintain and disclose public records when required. Additionally, staff members shall maintain professional staff and student boundaries consistent with Policy 5253 and Procedure 5253 and refrain from using personal web pages, email accounts, social networks, other electronic media or private messaging capabilities of any social media to communicate directly with currently enrolled students.

User-generated Content

The District's use of social media is limited to promoting the mission and goals of the District. While the District may choose to allow user-generated content on its social-media sites, by doing so the District does not intend to create an open public forum for speech. Nor does the District express approval or support for the views expressed by third-parties that appear on its social-media sites. The District reserves the right to remove comments posted on social media it has created or owns and remove comments that are not relevant to the topic of the specific forum. Inappropriate comments include content that has lewd, vulgar, obscene language, threatens or defames any person or organization, contains explicit descriptions of threats, violates the legal ownership interest of another party, supports or opposes political candidates or ballot

propositions, promotes illegal activity contrary to policies or objectives of the school district (e.g., promotes drugs, alcohol or fighting), promotes commercial services or products, or that promotes, fosters, or perpetuates discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, gender identity, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

The District will post notice on its social media sites, where possible, and on its website, indicating the circumstances under which user-generated content will be removed. The District will also post, where feasible, notice on its social media sites alerting users that all content related to District business on the site is a public record, and is therefore subject to applicable retention and disclosure requirements. Social media content shall be preserved in accord with the applicable retention schedule, and in a format that preserves the integrity of the original record and remains accessible. This policy applies to third-party hosted and internal social-media tools that the District chooses to utilize. This also includes social-media tools that are hosted on District servers or networks, which are not accessible by the public.

Disciplinary Action

Violation of any of the conditions explained in the Social Media Policy and Procedures by District employees could be cause for disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Violation of any of the conditions explained in the Social Media Policy and Procedure by District students could be cause for disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from school, and/or suspension or revocation of network and computer access privileges.