Bigfork School District #38

NONINSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS 8560

Display of Flags and Banners on District Property

Definitions

"Flag" means any physical or digital material designed for display on a flagpole, building, wall, vehicle, or other structure.

“District property" means buildings, grounds, vehicles, uniforms, and any other property owned, leased, or controlled by the District.

Display of Flags and Banners

No flag or banner may be displayed in or on District property other than the following flags and banners:

(a) the United States flag;
(b) the official flag of the state of Montana, or any county, municipality, special district, or other political subdivision within the state;
(c) the official flag of a school district, public university, or community college;
(d) the official flag of any state in the United States;
(e) the official flag of any federally recognized tribal nation;
(f) the official flag of any federally recognized foreign nation;
(g) the official flag of any of the branches and units of the United States military;
(h) official historical flags of the United States and the state of Montana, including but not limited to the Betsy Ross flag, Gadsden flag, and other flags of historical significance;
(i) the POW/MIA flag, as provided in § 1-1-541, MCA;
(j) flags or banners representing official school mascots and colors; and
(k) official law enforcement flags, including but not limited to flags honoring law enforcement officers and fallen officers.

No flags or banners may be displayed on District property that represent a political viewpoint, including but not limited to flags or banners regarding a political party, race, sexual orientation, gender, or political ideology. This restriction does not apply to flags recognizing official government entities, law enforcement agencies, military branches, or public service organizations.

Nothing in this policy may be construed to limit the private speech of individuals, and nothing in this policy may be interpreted to restrict expressions of personal belief outside of official government displays.

The restrictions in this policy do not apply to personal clothing, jewelry, or accessories worn by government employees, except where specific uniform policies or official dress codes apply.

Policy History:
First reading on: 8/20/25
Second reading/Adopted on: 9/10/25