

RSU #16 (Mechanic Falls, Minot, Poland)

Policy Code: IJND

Adopted: July 2004

Revised: July 2013

Regional School Unit 16 Web Site

<http://www.rsu16.org>

RSU 16 maintains an official web site to provide general information about our school system as well as information about educational programs, extracurricular activities and school events. This web site is intended to support the educational mission of the schools, to enhance the curriculum and learning opportunities for students and staff, and to inform the larger community about our schools. The web site does not create, nor is it intended to create a public or limited public forum.

The web site also provides the School Board a medium to publicize its official position on issues related to the schools such as school building projects, proposed school budgets and public policies affecting the schools. The web site is an outlet for the official message of RSU 16 and is not a forum for dissemination of other views. The content of the web site shall remain in the exclusive control of RSU 16, its school board and designated agents.

The Board has adopted guidelines to ensure that the RSU16 web site is in compliance with applicable laws and meets the highest educational and quality standards. The Superintendent is responsible for implementing this policy, the listed guidelines and any additional administrative procedures that may be needed to govern the day-to-day management of the web site. The Superintendent may delegate specific responsibilities to the district Technology Coordinator and/or Technology Integrator, as he/she deems appropriate.

WEB SITE GUIDELINES

A. Web Site Purpose

The purpose of RSU 16's official web site to provide general information about our school system as well as information about educational programs, extracurricular activities and school events. This web site is intended to support the educational mission of the schools, to enhance the curriculum and learning opportunities for students and staff, and to inform the larger community about our schools.

The web site is an outlet for the official message of RSU 16 and is not a forum for dissemination of other views. The content of the web site shall remain in the exclusive control of RSU 16 and its School Board and designated agents.

B. Web Site Structure

The web site includes the following content areas:

1. System-wide information (such as Central Office, Technology, Transportation, Facilities, Food Service);
2. School Board information (such as members, officers, committees, meeting agendas, minutes and policies);
3. School-wide information for each school;
4. Individual department, grade level and/or classroom information (which may include student work and/or teacher-created work and resources);
5. Information about school-sponsored extracurricular organizations;
6. Information about school events and activities; and

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7. Contact information for School Board members and school staff.

C. School Unit Authority and Webmaster Responsibilities

RSU16 reserves the right to approve all web site content and to edit, delete, or modify any web page content as it sees fit to comply with the intended purposes of the web site and these guidelines.

The Superintendent shall designate a Webmaster, who is responsible for maintaining the web site, approving all material to be posted on the site, and monitoring all web site activities for compliance with Board policies, applicable laws and regulations, and these guidelines.

All position statements and viewpoints published on the website related to school policy, governance and initiatives must be approved by the School Board or its designee.

Only the Webmaster and other authorized school staff shall have password-protected access to the web server to place and remove web pages and content.

D. Web Site Content

1. RSU16's web site does not create, nor is it intended to create, a public or limited public forum. All materials placed on the web site must serve the educational mission of the school and shall support RSU16's official views regarding how best to accomplish the educational mission of the schools.
2. Web site content is limited to school-sponsored information and activities. No personal student or staff web pages, blogs or other interactive features are permitted on the web site.
3. Web page content must comply with Board policies, administrative procedures and school rules.
4. All materials placed on the web site must meet academic standards for proper spelling, grammar, content, accuracy and appearance.

If the Webmaster is unsure whether particular material is appropriate for the web site, he/she shall consult with the Superintendent, whose decision shall be final.

E. Confidentiality of Student Information

1. The web site shall be in compliance with all applicable state and federal confidentiality laws and regulations.
2. At no time shall personal information about students (such as home address, telephone number, e-mail address, birth date, social security number, etc.) or any other information made confidential by state or federal law appear on the web site. The web site will not include any information that indicates the physical location of students at any given time, other than attendance at a particular school or participation in school activities.
3. Some student information, photographs or work will be published on the web, unless the parent/guardian objects and formally notifies the district that this information is not to be published. For purposes of this guideline, student information includes name, class rosters, awards/honors received, and team/extracurricular activity participation lists.

F. Confidentiality of Staff Information

1. At no time shall personal information about staff appear on the web site (including home address, home telephone number, home e-mail address, birth date, social security number, etc.).

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2. Because the school unit's web site is maintained in part to enhance communication with students and their families, the school e-mail addresses and/or telephone numbers of staff are published on the web site.

G. Copyright

1. Appropriate permission will be obtained before any copyrighted or trademarked material is used on the web site. No copyrighted material may be reproduced, transmitted or stored on RSU16's web site without obtaining permission from the copyright owner
2. Students shall retain the copyright on materials that they create.
3. An appropriate copyright notice will appear with all copyrighted material published on the web site.
4. Except for the above exceptions, all web pages and content on the web site are the property of and owned by RSU16.

H. Web Site Design and Accessibility

The Webmaster is authorized to develop standards for the design and appearance of RSU 16's web site. These standards will include measures to make web pages accessible to persons with disabilities. School unit information available on the web site will also be made available to the public in alternative ways upon request.

I. Advertising

RSU16's web site will not include any advertising, nor will it include any selling activities outside of publicity for school-sponsored and/or approved fundraising activities.

J. Links to External Sites

1. The RSU16 web site will not include links to any personal web sites of students or staff.
2. The web site may include links only to web sites that have demonstrated educational value to students, staff and/or the community, as deemed appropriate by the Webmaster.
3. The web site shall include a disclaimer informing users that links are provided as a convenience, and that RSU16 does not endorse these sites or have any responsibility for the content of these sites.

K. Additional Requirements

1. The web site shall inform users about how to contact the Webmaster.
2. Each web page shall include the date the page was last updated.
3. The Webmaster will provide appropriate information to school users regarding technical requirements for publishing material on the web site.

Attachment: "Parent/Guardian Request to Not Publish Information on the RSU #16 School Department Web Site" form.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99
20-A M.R.S.A. § 6001
17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.
47 U.S.C. § 1732

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**PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUEST
TO NOT PUBLISH STUDENT INFORMATION
ON THE RSU #16 SCHOOL DEPARTMENT WEB SITE**

Name of Student: _____ Grade or Class: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Student Information / Photograph / Work to be Published: _____

The RSU 16 School Department's Policy is to allow the publishing of student information, photographs or work on our web site, unless refused by the parent/guardian.

Please indicate below if you do not agree to the publication of the information / photograph / work described above and return this form to your child's teacher or the school office as soon as possible.

_____ I do not want my child's information / photograph / work to be published on the School Department web site.

Parent / Guardian Printed Name

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

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SIGNATURE BLOCK:

RSU #16 School Board

Mary Martin, Chair

DATE

Jack Wiseman, Vice Chair

DATE

Jennifer Boenig

DATE

Grace Gendron

DATE

Tina Love

DATE

Mary Ella Jones

DATE

Ed Rabasco, Jr.

DATE

Melissa Hodgkin

DATE

Steve Holbrook

DATE

Annette Hemond

DATE

Aaron Ouellette

DATE

Scott Sawyer

DATE

Joe Parent

DATE

Scott Tiner

DATE

Julie Rioux

DATE