



EKALAKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EKALAKA ELEMENTARY DISTRICT #15 • CARTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

Certified Employees Handbook

2025-26

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WELCOME TO EKALAKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

The material covered within this staff handbook is intended as a method of communicating to employees regarding general district information, rules, and regulations and is not intended to either enlarge or diminish any Board policy, administrative regulation, or negotiated agreement. Material contained herein may, therefore, be superseded by such Board policy, administrative regulation, negotiated agreement, or changes in state or federal law.

Any information contained in this staff handbook is subject to unilateral revision or elimination, from time to time, without notice. No information in this document shall be viewed as an offer, expressed or implied, or as a guarantee of any employment of any duration.

Equal employment opportunity and treatment shall be practiced by Ekalaka Public Schools regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, and disability, if the employee, with or without reasonable accommodation, is able to perform the essential functions of the position.

The following have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements, including Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, and other civil rights or discrimination issues, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and may be contacted at the high school business office for additional information and/or compliance issues:

James Kapptie, Superintendent

MISSION STATEMENT

Ekalaka Public Schools is a symbol of excellence with state of the art facilities and customized educational programs and opportunities that meet the needs, desires, and attributes of each student.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The Trustees are guided by the conviction that every student has the right to the best education this community can provide. Responsibility for this rests with all citizens, parents, school staff, and students, with the ultimate responsibility for direction and decision making assumed by the Board.

The Board will exert leadership in creating, maintaining, and improving the school for the children's educational needs. The focal point of concern in our school system is the student. Organization, staffing, programming, teaching, and funding should all be developed primarily and basically to enhance appropriate opportunities for students to learn and develop – personally, academically and socially.

ORGANIZATION

The Ekalaka Public School (EPS) System is composed of two schools: Ekalaka Elementary School District #15 and Carter County High School, Carter County, State of Montana.

In order to achieve their primary goal of providing each child with the necessary skills and attitudes to become effective citizens, the Board shall exercise the full authority granted to it by the laws of the state. Their legal powers, duties and responsibilities are derived from the Montana Constitution and the State statutes and regulations. School Laws of Montana and the administrative rules of the Board of Public Education and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction delineate the legal powers, duties and responsibilities of the Board.

EKALAKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Legislature of the State of Montana delegates to the Board responsibility for the conduct and governance of district schools. The District is operated by a Unified Board of Trustees consisting of 7 members. Board members, as elected by residents of this district, are as follows:

Lisa Borchgrevink, Chairman, High School District #3 & Elementary District #15
Stefan Livingston, Vice-Chair, High School District #3 & Elementary District #15
Micheal Ashbrook, School District #3 & Elementary District #15
David Loudermilk, High School District #3 & Elementary District #15
Rena Tauck, High School District #1
Thebea Thomas, High School District #2
Samantha Wright, Chair, High School District #3 & Elementary District #15

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

To contact the school please dial: (406) 630-1523
To contact the Business office dial 630-1521
To contact the Superintendent, dial 630-1517, cell 406-630-1596
To contact the Technology/Transportation office, dial 630-1511

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

James Kapptie, Superintendent
Brittani Brence, Business Manager/Clerk

ABSENCES

ABSENCE FORMS

Leave forms are available online through flow forms and should be completed as early as possible prior to taking leave to insure a substitute can be secured. Deductions from discretionary, sick, professional, bereavement or vacation will be made in the business office. When completing your leave form, please make recommendations for your choice of substitute.

If you do not take leave for the time requested, please submit a note or a photocopy of the leave slip with the corrections, to the Superintendent or business office.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA)

Eligibility: FMLA requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees. Employees must request leave and be determined to be eligible to receive FMLA leave. Please contact the Superintendent for additional information and proper forms.

EMPLOYMENT

APPROPRIATE DRESS

All Staff are encouraged to pay particular attention to their dress and appearance. Please dress in a manner that is appropriate for your position and the work that you do. Professional dress is required for regular classroom instruction.

CELL PHONES

Employees should not be using their cell phone for personal reasons during the school day. When necessary, employees may use their personal cell phones and similar communication devices only during non-instructional time. In no event shall an employee's use of a cell phone interfere with the employee's job obligations and responsibilities.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT(CBA)

Working conditions, benefits, compensation and employee rights of certified staff are negotiated and codified in the CBA between the Unified School Board and the Ekalaka Teachers Association.

COMPLAINTS *policy 1700*

If a teacher/parent/community member has a complaint, the following channels should be followed:

1. Employee
2. Superintendent
3. Board of Trustees

CONTRACTS

All certified employees must have a signed contract with the Board of Trustees. The CBA covers many details that are not contained in this handbook. You should become familiar with this document. After issuing contracts, teachers must return the contract either signed or unsigned to the superintendent within 20 calendar days of issuance. A contract not returned by this date will indicate that the teacher does not wish to return the following year.

DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

The use of illicit drugs and unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. It is the policy of Ekalaka Public Schools (5226) that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession or use of a

controlled substance by an employee in the workplace is prohibited. Compliance with the standards of conduct set forth in this policy is mandatory for all staff.

EVALUATION

Certified staff evaluations will be conducted as outlined in the CBA.

HARASSMENT

Harassment of staff members is strictly prohibited on district property, including non-district property while a staff member is at any district-sponsored, district-approved, or district-related activity or function, such as field trips or athletic events, in which students are under the control of the district or where the staff member is engaged in district business.

Harassment includes, but is not limited to, harassment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, marital status, disability, and sexual harassment. Sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. The staff member's submission to the conduct or communication is made a term or condition of employment;
2. The staff member's submission to, or rejection of, the conduct or communication is the basis for decisions affecting employment and assignment;
3. The conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance;
4. The conduct or communication has the effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Other types of harassment may include, but not be limited to, jokes, stories, pictures, or objects that are offensive, tend to alarm, annoy, abuse, or demean certain protected individuals and groups.

A staff member whose behavior is found to be in violation of Board policy may be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal.

Any staff member who is subject to, or knows of, such harassment is directed to notify the Superintendent immediately. If the complaint is not satisfactorily settled, the staff member may file a complaint directly with the Montana Human Rights Commission or with the U.S. Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Such complaints may also be filed with the appropriate enforcement agency, in lieu of the district's complaint process, at any time, as provided by law.

There will be no retaliation by the district against any person who, in good faith, reports harassment.

Idle gossip is detrimental to the work environment and could lead to harassment charges.

IN-SERVICES (*PIR Days*)

Attendance is mandatory at the Teacher In-services offered by the district. October PIR days throughout the state are mandatory unless an alternative plan has been filed by you and approved by the administration. If you should decide to substitute a workshop or class for the October In-service, you should contact the ETA president before June 30 (the preceding spring). Classes taken during the summer will be documented and turned in to the administration on the 1st PIR day of the school year that will take place in August before school starts. Other PIR days are noted on the adopted school calendar.

PIR days absences will be in full day increment.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Job descriptions for all employees have been formulated. As an accredited public school system, we adhere to state and federal laws, administrative rules and state accreditation standards governing school personnel.

LEAVING DURING THE DAY

Should you need to leave campus during class or your preparation period, please sign out in the main office.

PAYDAY

All staff will be paid on the 15th of each month during the school year. Arrangements for certified staff for payments 12 month increments and extra-curricular payments should be made with the district clerk. 12 month increments will be done by June 30th of that year.

PERSONNEL FILES

The system maintains a personnel file for each employee. You have the right to inspect your file at any reasonable time. By law, certified employees must provide the district with an official transcript of coursework. We also require that you provide us with a copy of your valid teaching certificate. The responsibility for keeping certificates current rests with the individual teacher.

POLICY MANUAL

The Ekalaka Public Schools Policy Manual is available at the office. Section 5000 applies directly to staff.

REPORTING TIME FOR STAFF

Normal working days are 7:45am-3:45pm, exceptions are listed in the CBA.

SALARY LANE CHANGE REQUEST

Written notification of any request for different placement on the salary schedule based on coursework must be submitted to the superintendent by May 1.

STAFF AND TEACHER MEETINGS

All staff and teachers must attend meetings unless excused by the Superintendent.

STAFF DIRECTORY

A staff directory listing each employee's position and telephone number will be made available to all staff members. Please be respectful of staff member's privacy and do not share outside our staff (unless given permission by that individual.)

STUDENT HANDBOOK

The student handbook, like the staff handbooks, is updated yearly. As a staff member, you are required to read and sign off on it yearly.

TEACHERS ORGANIZATION

The Ekalaka Teachers Association, affiliated with the MFPE, is the recognized bargaining unit in our school system. Membership is voluntary. For more information, visit with an ETA officer.

TENURE

Montana State Laws govern the rules of tenure. Essentially, if a teacher received their fourth consecutive contract, he/she has tenure.

TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT

In order to protect the health of students, staff, and the general public, provide a healthy working environment, and promote good health for students, tobacco use is prohibited on all district property, in district-owned vehicles and in all public school buildings.

Tobacco use is defined as the carrying or smoking of any kind of lighted pipe, cigar, cigarette, or any other smoking equipment or material or the chewing or sniffing of a tobacco product. Tobacco products may not be visible.

YEAR END CHECK OUT PROCEDURES

An end-of-the-year form will be provided by the Superintendent in preparations for year end procedures.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

ADVISING, COACHING, SPONSORING

Both schools offer a number of extra-curricular activities for students. As a small system, we urge all certified staff to become involved in the extra-curricular program as an advisor, coach and/or sponsor. A list of these positions and a salary schedule for certified staff is in the CBA. It is necessary for an advisor, coach, or sponsor to supervise students at all times.

GRADE AND ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Grade School attendance (Grades K-6) must be taken twice daily, once in the morning and once after lunch. Children returning to school from being absent are asked to present a note to the main office signed by the parent/guardian.

High School and Junior High attendance is taken each period. Please check the Infinite Campus message center daily for students who are absent and report any student who does not arrive in your class to the office so that personnel can determine their location.

EXCUSED ABSENCES-8 DAYS (see policy 3122P)

Excused absences are absences requested by parents or a legal guardian. Valid excused absences are for illness, bereavement, doctor appointments, and situations where the absence would be excused by law. All excused absences are counted toward the eight (8) day semester limit of absences, with the exception of school-related absence, administrative approved activities, medical absence, and family bereavement. A call to the school by the parent or legal guardian on the day of the absence is required to identify an absence as excused. Montana law requires each student to be accounted for on school days.

1. For every absence over the eight (8) days per semester, a 1% grade deduction will be enforced per class, per day over the eight (8) days per semester.
2. Juniors and seniors will be allowed two (2) days for military enlistment or college visitation. Proof is required for these absences.

GRADE BOOKS

Electronic grade books are used. Students and parents trust to see updated and current information in Infinite Campus Grade Books. If classwork is due, and students' grades will be deducted for late submission, assignments shall be graded within 24-48 period. A minimum of 2 grades will be entered each week and an

appropriate number of grades should be recorded each quarter. Your grade books will be updated weekly by 8:00 am Monday morning in order to run the most current eligibility for students.

While grading participation has value, it should not account for more than 10% of an overall grade for a semester. 90% of students' grades should be based on content learned from appropriate mastery of content standards.

If a student fails to turn in an assignment, the grade needs to be marked as a zero and it must count against their overall grade until the assignment is turned in. Teachers are entrusted to reach out directly to the parent/guardian if a student in the class has a D or F. A comprehensive plan of how the student will show content mastery and raise grade to C or higher will need to be developed. We will work with parents/guardians and student to address any educational concerns

GRADING PERIODS

Report cards are issued quarterly. Students and parents trust to see updated and current information in Infinite Campus Grade Books. Starting and ending dates for each quarter are on the calendar. Dates for sending home report cards will be determined near the end of each quarter.

GRADING SYSTEM AND HONOR ROLL

Kindergarten and first grade will use a 1-4 rubric scale for their standards based grading. Grade 2 will use S-, S and S+.

Grades 3-12 will use the letter grades A, B, C, D, F, and I for incompletes. If a student receives a D or F, comments will be included in the Report Card.

A	94-100%	4.00
A-	90-93%	3.67
B+	87-89%	3.33
B	83-86%	3.00
B-	80-82%	2.67
C+	77-79%	2.33
C	73-76%	2.00
C-	70-72%	1.67
D+	67-69%	1.33
D	63-66%	1.00
D-	60-62%	.67
F	59% and lower	.00

LESSON PLANS/SUB PLANS

Our students trust that each day is educationally valuable and it is our responsibility to ensure we meet that expectation.

Emergency/unplanned absences

All staff are to maintain an active sub folder containing emergency lesson plans in case of unexpected absence and keep in their designated school office. Emergency Sub plans should include: What teacher can assist with information that is being covered, extra activities that build skills and knowledge.

Pre Planned Absences

A copy of all sub plans needs to be emailed to the office secretary and Superintendent prior to being gone from school. Sub plans should be content driven and similar to your own lesson plans had you been present. We will still be providing excellent educational opportunities on these days. Sub plans need to be clear, detailed, and have enough content to fill an entire period. Things to consider in sub plans: Who to ask for assistance, are events scheduled that day(s), where will sub find work that is assigned, does lesson involve technology(if so where do they seek assistance), what opportunities can sub do with students who finish early, what expertise does sub bring to the classroom that can be leveraged?

MISSED ASSIGNMENTS (see policy 3122P)

Make up work should be done in advance or as soon as possible. For absences, make up work procedures will be as follows:

1. Students gone for scheduled activities, athletics, or non school sanctioned trips authorized by administration will be required to get their homework prior to leaving. Pink slips will be handed out by the coach/advisor and will also be available in the main office. Homework from these trips is due the next scheduled school day.
2. Students gone for illness or emergency will be allowed one make up day for each day absent.
3. Tests will be taken on schedule if a student knows in advance. Other arrangements will be at the teachers discretion.

To receive credit for make-up work, homework must be completed in compliance with the procedures above. Failure to complete the homework on time will result in:

1. 25% dock for 1 day late
 2. 50% dock for 2 days late
 3. 75% dock for 3 or more days late
- *to receive any credit the assignment must be turned in before the next chapter exam or one school week before the quarter ends, whichever comes first.

Makeup work is the responsibility of the student, not the teacher. In the case of extreme illness or circumstances, the administration may extend the time limit.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences are held after the 1st and 3rd quarters.

REPORT CARDS

The official electronic grading system of the district will be used to record grades K-12 and for printing report cards.

RETENTION

If you plan to retain a student in grades K-8, you must notify the superintendent and counselor of your intent no later than the end of the 3rd quarter. Upon notification, the administrator will apprise you of additional steps necessary before a final decision to retain can be made.

SYLLABUS

Teachers are expected to follow the outline and grading procedures in the course syllabus. A master copy of the syllabus will be kept in the office. Any changes made mid-semester with grading or learning content needs to be pre-approved with the principal/superintendent.

(FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HONOR ROLL, INCOMPLETES, ETC. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE STUDENT HANDBOOK SECTION.)

LUNCH

CAFETERIA SCHEDULE

The high school and junior high lunch period runs from 12:100-12:24 with seniors having first-in-line privileges.

The grade school will eat from 12:35-1:00 starting with 4-6.

LUNCH COUNT

A preliminary morning lunch count is to be taken by both grade school and high school teachers and reported in Infinite Campus by 8:45am. An actual lunch count will be recorded as everyone passes through the lunch line.

LUNCH DUTY

Lunch duty schedules will be determined at the beginning of the year. During this time, it is the responsibility of the teacher to supervise and maintain order. If for any reason you cannot supervise on the day you are assigned, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

SCHOOL NUTRITION

The District is part of the National Breakfast and Lunch Program. Adult breakfast cost will be \$2.25 and lunch cost will be \$4.60.

MISCELLANEOUS

ASSEMBLIES

Situations may arise during the school year (i.e. assemblies, etc.) where the class schedule may have to be altered. In these instances, the administration will contact the teachers as to their preferences on how to proceed (i.e. shorten periods, drop a period, etc.). Also, all effort will be made to make the adjustments in a timely fashion.

BUS ROUTES

The Mill Iron and Hwy. 7 route (running generally north and east of town); the Ridgeway route (running generally south and east); The Chalk Butte route (running generally southwest of town), Beaver Flats (running generally east).

VISITORS

We encourage parents, trustees, and interested community members to visit our school. Please report to the main office if you are expecting a visitor and on which day. We do ask that visitors observe the following guidelines:

1. Check in at the office.
2. Do not expect to confer with a teacher during instructional time.
3. Avoid visiting during the first and last two weeks of school and during testing periods.
4. Do not allow students to bring friends or visiting relatives to school unless they have permission from the classroom teacher and administration.

VOLUNTEERS

The District recognizes the valuable contributions made to the school program by members of the community who act as volunteers. District employees who work with volunteers shall follow school Policy #5430. Volunteers with access to students are subject to a criminal background check (Policy #5122). This means they must be fingerprinted. If the volunteer does not have "regular unsupervised access" to students, a criminal background check may not be required. The Superintendent will make this determination. Volunteers must sign a volunteer log that can be obtained in the office.

PURCHASING

PURCHASING PROCEDURES

Under law, the Board has sole authority and responsibility for all purchasing within the district; however, the mechanical functions of procurement will be delegated to the Superintendent. Any obligation of district funds without utilization of a purchase order shall become the financial responsibility of the person having obligated the monies. Employees are to fill out requisitions and receive approval in the form of a copy of the purchase order in advance of purchase. Staff who obligate the District without proper authorization may be held personally responsible for payment of such obligations. (see policy 7320)

RULES & CONSEQUENCES

CLASSROOM RULES AND CONSEQUENCES

Teachers are expected to formulate and post in your classroom a set of classroom rules and consequences. This should be done prior to the first day of school. If you are in doubt about appropriate rules or consequences, please check with the Superintendent before implementation.

DISCIPLINE FOR GRADES K-12 (please see attached discipline chart)

Discipline will be the responsibility of the classroom teacher. Most discipline will be handled by the classroom teacher or person on duty. Persistent problems will involve parents and the administration. If referring a student to the superintendent's office, please fill out a behavior referral form in Infinite Campus and notify the office of the student coming. In-school suspension will be used for disruptive behavior. If the behavior persists, the administration will invoke the disciplinary procedure. We ask the cooperation and support of parents in our effort to provide an educational atmosphere where all students can learn and faculty can teach.

Every action produces a consequence. Acknowledging and supporting positive behavior and actions will be the strongest relationship builder we have with students and families. If the student chooses to violate a school rule, he/she is choosing to accept the consequences attached to violating that rule.

General rules and administrative consequences. Student will be referred to the office (because classroom consequences have been exhausted or the student has violated rules outside the classroom or because of the seriousness of the offense)

SAFETY/EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

ACCIDENTS

All accidents or injuries involving students or staff, no matter how minor, are to be reported to the building office. Accidents involving students require an 'accident report' be filled out. Forms are available in the office and should be filled out by the end of the working day. Accidents involving staff members will be reported to Workers' Compensation.

FIRE SAFETY

Please acquaint yourself with the fire exits and fire alarm system. Be sure you have a drawing posted in your room that indicates the primary and secondary evacuation routes from your classroom. There will be a drill the first week of school, as per state law, and 8 other drills during the course of the year. See your color coded safety flip chart located in each classroom.

TEACHERS:

- Designate a place where all students know where to go and wait outside for school for the teacher (at least 100 feet from the building).
- In case of emergency, you and your students may seek shelter in the high school or elementary school gym. Certain circumstances will dictate the most appropriate choice.
- Should be the last one out of the classroom.
- Shut-off lights on the way out and close the classroom door-do not lock.
- Go over routes until ALL students know what to do and when.
- See that students move in a single file to the assigned exit. In the event that the route and/or designated exit is blocked, the teacher will give directions for the next nearest exit.
- Once outside and in your designated area check your roll to see that all students are present and accounted for. Immediately report any discrepancies to the person in charge.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES

Inclement weather or other emergencies sometimes make it necessary to cancel school or to cancel bus routes. Decisions about route cancellations are to be made by the driver after consultation with the Superintendent and/or Transportation Director, when possible. Decisions to close the school for emergency or inclement weather reasons will be made by the Superintendent, or the person designated "in charge" in his/her absence, in consultation with the Transportation Director. The administration will try to contact all staff members when a cancellation occurs. If there is a school schedule change, the announcement will be made on the school website, Facebook posting, radio channels KFLN 960AM, 100.5FM (Baker) and KKRY 92.3FM. Telephone calls will be made to the extent possible. Electronic based automatic communication may be used for quick contact of parents and staff through phone calls or emails/texts using a technology such as shoutpoint.

There will be months the weather will not be conducive for taking students to the playground for the normal recess periods at the elementary. The following criteria will be used in evaluating these days:

1. When the temperature drops below the zero degree mark or the wind chill is below zero, either an indoor or an abbreviated outdoor recess period will be observed.
2. During rain or hard snows the indoor recess period will be observed.
3. The teacher will also take the responsibility of keeping a student in if he or she is not feeling well, even if a note has not been sent from home on that day.
4. Notes sent by parents to allow a teacher to keep a student in at recess time should have a statement of reasons why the student is remaining indoors and the parent's signature. This should also be done on a daily basis. There may be some exceptions to this policy, and if so will be handled on an individual basis through the office.
5. If any situations that are not covered in this policy should arise, they will be discussed and handled through the Superintendent.

SCHOOL FACILITY & EQUIPMENT USAGE

BUILDING/DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are 7:45am. to 4:00 p.m. when school is in session. Staff members needing access to rooms other than their own may contact the Superintendent for key checkout procedures.

COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND PROPERTY

School facilities are available to the community for education, civic, cultural, and other uses consistent with the public interest, when such use does not interfere with a school program or school-sponsored activities. Use of school facilities for school purposes has precedence over all other uses. Persons on school premises must abide by the district's conduct rules at all times.

Student and school-related organizations shall be granted the use of school facilities at no cost. Other organizations granted the use of the facility must complete the "Facility Use" form and shall pay appropriate fees and costs. All requests must be pre-approved by the Superintendent.

COPIER USAGE

Students should not be making copies unless they are an aide. Please do not send students to the office or lounge to make copies.

INTERNET USAGE/MOVIES

Do not give your password to anyone. Substitutes have their own login and email. If documents need to be accessed by a sub, please send them to substitute@ekalaka.net. When the teacher leaves his/her computers or classrooms, they are responsible for logging off of their computers. You are responsible for logging a student in and monitoring their access to sites. **Do not take this responsibility if you are not going to monitor them closely.**

Please do not share your passwords with anyone, as what takes place under your login is your responsibility. If you have items that need to be accessed by a sub, please send them to substitute@ekalaka.net. On a similar note, please remember to log off your computer when you step away from it. Also, please remember that you should be monitoring and guiding the internet activities of your students while under your direction.

All movies need to be approved prior to showing them in class. A Movie Request Form is in documents for staff.

Teachers have no expectation of privacy in any materials that are stored, transmitted, or received via the EPS electronic network or EPS computers. EPS reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, review, and store, at any time and without prior notice, any and all usage of computers, systems, networks and Internet access and any and all information transmitted or received in connection with such usage. *For further information, see policy 5450.*

LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER:

Ekalaka Public Schools makes no warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, for internet service. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at each user's risk. EPS specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the Internet. *For further information, see policy 3612.*

KEY PROCEDURE

Keys are issued to staff by the Superintendent. In order to protect property, students, and staff and to ensure the building is adequately secured when no authorized personnel are present, all staff are expected to follow the following key-control procedures:

1. The duplication of keys is prohibited;
2. Keys are not to be left unattended. Avoid having keys on desks, tables, in mailboxes, unattended coat pockets, etc.

3. Keys may not be loaned to students or to individuals not employed by the district. Under no circumstance should staff provide keys to students to “run errands”, “unlock/lock” doors, etc.
4. Lost or stolen keys must be reported to the Superintendent within 24 hours of discovery of the loss or theft so that measures may be taken to protect district property. Three days will be allowed for the finding or recovery of keys before any charges are assessed;
5. Upon completion of a lost-or-stolen-key report form, presentation of the broken or damaged key(s), and submission of assessed fees, replacement keys will be issued within 72 hours;
6. Charges for lost or stolen keys will be made to the staff member to whom the key(s) have been issued.
7. At end of employment, keys will be returned within two weeks to HR or administration.

TELEPHONE USE

Please keep in mind that the telephones are business phones and should not be tied up for personal calls (local or long distance). The school district will pay for long distance calls which are made for school purposes. Personal calls must be reversed and charged to your home phone or credit card.

VEHICLE USE

Any staff member or volunteer must have a copy of a valid driver’s license on file with the district office and must consent to a background check of their driving record before they may operate a school vehicle.

STUDENT PROCEDURES

CHILD ABUSE

A district employee who has reasonable cause to suspect that a student may be an abused or neglected child shall report such a case to the Montana Department of Family Services Centralized Intake Reporting System. All reporters will call the statewide phone number, 1-866-820-5437. If you report Child Abuse or Neglect, you must complete the Child Abuse Form on the staff website and submit it to the principal.

Any of the District’s employees who fail to report to the Department of Family Services Centralized Intake Reporting System known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect, or who prevent another person from reasonably doing so may be civilly liable for the damages proximately caused by such failure or prevention, and are guilty of a misdemeanor. This person will also be subject to disciplinary action, including discharge, by the Board. *Ekalaka Public School Policy #5232.*

CONFIDENTIALITY

As a professional educator, you are under a legal and ethical obligation to guard the confidentiality of your students. Personal information which you possess concerning a student – such as grades, test scores, etc. – may be shared with the student, his/her parent/guardian(s) and select professional staff. Acquaint yourself with state and federal law regarding the individual’s’ right to privacy.

LEGAL STUDENT NAMES

All school documents should contain the legal names of the students. It is absolutely essential that the permanent records contain the legal names of the students. To help prevent confusion, birth certificates for entering students should be presented. Immunizations records must be presented by new students who are enrolling in Ekalaka Public Schools

MEDICATION

Teachers are not to administer medication to students without prior administrative approval. Teachers are not to permit students to take medication unless a written authorization from home is provided.

All medications, except inhalers or anaphylactic reaction medication, insulin or other medication deemed necessary shall be kept in a designated locked container in the office. Under normal circumstances, absolutely NO medication (over the counter or prescription) can be kept in a student's possession during school hours. *Please refer to Policy #3416.*

Recess and playground rules ~~RECESS AND PLAYGROUND RULES~~ (Grades K-6)

In addition to the general rules of conduct, the following rules are to be followed for the playground at the elementary school. All teachers and teachers' assistants on duty can add additional stipulations to ensure the safety of all students: at recess and before & after school.

- Students are to play only on the designated playground area. Students should not arrive on the playground earlier than 7:45 a.m. as this is the time supervision begins.
- Students riding bikes to school should park them in the bicycle racks. Once students arrive at school in the morning, the bikes are to be parked until students are dismissed for the day.
- When going to and from the playground, students will walk on the sidewalks. Students will not run in from and out of the building during recess. Students will be allowed to go into the bathroom after asking the playground supervisor. Students will be excused one at a time unless it is an emergency.
- Squirt guns, sling shots, knives, hard baseballs, skateboards, rollerblades, or other potentially dangerous articles are not permitted on school grounds.
- Team sports such as football, soccer and other games that may require physical contact need to be played without knocking someone else down. For example, touch football requires a gentle touch and not straight arm pushing. Soccer requires kicking the ball, not an opponent. No rough-play or jumping on another student's back will be allowed.
- Students are not to bring gum, candy, or food on the playground but water is allowed.
- All games stop when the bell rings. Students will go immediately to their proper door and line up.
- Students are expected to use all playground equipment in the manner it was designated to be used.

RELEASING STUDENT INFORMATION

The Districts may release certain directory information regarding students, except that parent(s)/guardian(s) may prohibit such release. Directory information shall be limited to:

- Name
- Address
- Date & Place of Birth
- Gender
- Grade level
- Parents'/Guardians' names and addresses
- Dates of Attendance
- Academic awards, degrees and honors
- Information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics
- Period of attendance in school

Before releasing any student information, including their names, be sure that the parents have approved the release by submitting the student directory release form.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

Please acquaint yourself with the content of the student handbooks.

STUDENT RECORD ADDITIONS

When making any additions to the student permanent files, please give it to the district secretary for filing. The records for grades K-12 are housed in the main office vault. See the district secretary or counselor for access.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

By law, you are not to leave students unsupervised. Doing so makes you and the district liable in the event that a student is harmed or property destroyed. You may also jeopardize your continued employment.

WAIVER OF FEES

If a staff member becomes aware that certain required student fees may be a financial burden and would prohibit a student from participating, they are encouraged to discuss these hardship cases with the Superintendent, who will evaluate a possible waiver on a one-on-one basis.

STUDENT SCHEDULE

STUDENT HOURS - Monday – Friday - 8:08 am to 3:45 pm

CARTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

Period 1	8:08-9:03
Period 2	9:06-10:01
Period 3	10:04-10:59
Period 4	11:02-11:57
LUNCH	12:00-12:24
Homeroom	12:27-12:51
Period 5	12:54-1:49
Period 6	1:52-2:47
Period 7	2:50-3:45

TRAVEL PROCEDURES

1. **TRAVEL REQUEST**
 - a. A request for travel must be submitted to the Superintendent on a "Travel Request" form.
 - b. Once the request has been approved & signed by the Superintendent, it will be forwarded to the Business office.
 - c. A "Financial Report" must be completed within 5 working days of the return date.
2. **TRAVEL ADVANCE**
 - a. Travel advances can only be issued after a "Travel Request" form has been approved.
 - b. Request must be received at least five (5) working days before the travel is to occur. Requests not received within this time frame will need to be claimed as a reimbursement to the employee.

- c. Travel advances are issued to individual employees. For example, if three employees are traveling together, one employee may not request an advance for 3 lunches each day of travel.

3. PER DIEM

The district has adopted per diems as the method of reimbursing staff for travel. Per diem is the allowance for lodging (excludes taxes), meals and incidental expenses (M&IE). Per diem will be computed based on time the event begins/ends, plus a reasonable travel time. Time spent for personal errands will not extend travel time to allow for additional meals and/or lodging.

***MEALS & INCIDENTAL EXPENSES**

- a. The maximum daily allowance for meals is \$40.00 which is calculated as follows: Breakfast = \$10.00; Lunch=\$13.00 and \$17.00 for supper.
- b. Employees are eligible for breakfast, lunch and supper per diem if departure time is by 6:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., respectively.
- c. Only one of the three meal allowances will be provided if the travel is performed within the employee's normal working hours.
- (d) Meals included in the registration fee will be deducted from per diem.

***LODGING**

The standard rate for lodging in Montana is currently \$98.00. The school will try to secure the state rate for lodging whenever possible. Non-standard areas are established for locations whose lodging rates are higher than standard CONUS (Continental United States) rates.

1. Under normal circumstances, the business office will arrange for lodging to be either direct billed to the district or charged to a district issued procurement card (P-card). If the office is not given sufficient time to set up this billing, the employee will be reimbursed at CONUS rates.
2. All claims for lodging expense reimbursement allowed under this section must be documented by an appropriate receipt. Lodging must be reimbursed at actual cost, not to exceed the prescribed maximum rate per day for the location involved plus taxes on the allowable cost. If lodging is not available at the CONUS rates, the Superintendent must pre-authorize the additional cost, otherwise CONUS rates will be reimbursed, regardless of actual cost.
3. If the event gets over at 5:00 p.m. or later and there is 250 miles or greater travel distance, the district will provide for the night the meeting concludes.
4. Employees are expected to share rooms, with a 2 person/room maximum. The Superintendent may allow for deviation from this rule, under special circumstances.

***MILEAGE**

Employees are expected to take advantage of a district owned vehicle, if possible. When the district owned vehicle is used, if sufficient time is given either the cost of fuel can be charged to a p-card or employees may estimate the cost of fuel and 80% will be advanced to them. Receipts must be attached to the financial report.

When an employee chooses to use a privately owned vehicle even though a district vehicle is available, the employee may be reimbursed only at the rate of 48.15% of the mileage rate allowed by the United States Internal Revenue Service for the current year.

When a privately owned motor vehicle is used because a district-owned vehicle is not available or because the use is in the best interest of the district, then a rate equal to the mileage allotment allowed by the United States Internal Revenue Service for the current year must be paid for the first 1,000 miles and 3 cents less per mile for all additional miles traveled within a given calendar month.

Wherever mileage is allowed to any employee, the same shall be computed according to the shortest traveled route, when such shortest route is passable.

***REGISTRATION**

Under normal circumstances, registration fees will be prepaid. If the business office has not been given sufficient time to prepare a warrant for the registration, the employee will be reimbursed the actual expense.

4. CLAIM FOR EXPENSES.

All claims for reimbursement must be turned in to the business office no more than 5 working days after the travel has occurred.

All conflicts or questions (such as method of travel, per diem & mileage calculations, room sharing, driver, etc.) will be handled by the Superintendent, who will have the final determination.