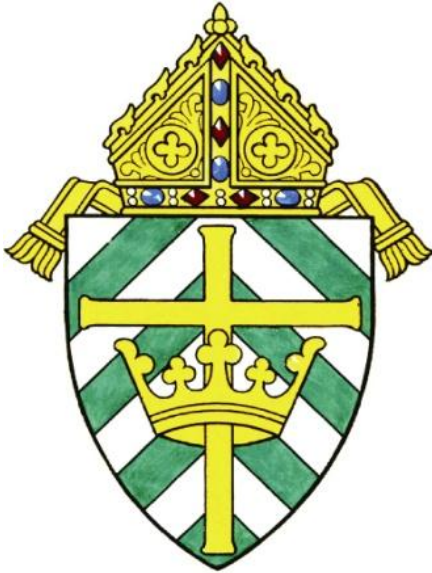


MONTANA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



*Diocese of
Helena*



*Diocese of
Great Falls-Billings*

Policy Manual

SECTION 7000

SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS AND RECORDS

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7000 School Publications

7002 School Publications

7002.1 All printed material representing the Catholic School will be authorized prior to publication

- The administration is responsible for the supervision and distribution of all written communication representing the Catholic School System.
- The Principal is responsible for the supervision and distribution of all written communication representing the individual school.
- Printed materials communicating the philosophy, programming and presence of the Catholic Schools and each school building will be professional in appearance and should testify to the Catholic nature and high academic standards of the school and system.

7002.2 School Newsletter

- The administration shall communicate through a weekly, monthly, or quarterly newsletter with the school families.

7002.3 Calling Guide / Handbook

- The Catholic Schools will print a “Calling Guide / Handbook” as a tool to assist in community communications.
- Parents will be notified in advance that their phone numbers will be listed.
 - It is recommended that the Calling Guide and the Handbook are bound together.
 - Each family shall be given one copy of the Calling Guide / Handbook and the school shall retain the signature acknowledging receipt of the publication.
- The Calling Guide and Handbooks are not public information and will be distributed only to the families attending the Catholic school.
- Annually, the Diocesan Catholic School Office shall receive each Calling Guide and school Handbook from each Catholic school.

7002.4 Student Publications

- Student publications foster creativity, responsibility, and improved communications skills and will be supported by the Catholic School as part of the curriculum and learning expectations.
- When students of the Catholic School students are invited to publish information representing the school or Catholic Community, such as a “student section” in the local media or a school newspaper, the document / portfolio will be reviewed by the administration prior to publication.

7100 School Records

7102 Student Records and Reports

7102.2 Student Records

- Each school shall keep, in secure storage, a permanent file of students' records, that shall include:
 - the name and address of the student
 - his/her parent or guardian
 - birth date
 - academic work completed
 - level of achievement (grades, standardized achievement tests)
 - attendance data
 - the statewide student identifier assigned by the Office of Public Instruction
 - immunization records against the diseases listed below
 - diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, rubella, mumps, and measles (rubeola) in the manner and with immunizing agents approved by the department, except that pertussis vaccination is not required for a person 7 years of age or older;
 - haemophilus influenza type "b" before enrolling in a preschool if under 5 years of age;
 - A pupil who transfers from one school district to another may photocopy immunization records in the possession of the school of origin. The school district to which a pupil transfers shall accept the photocopy as evidence of immunization. Within 30 days after a transferring pupil ceases attendance at the school of origin, the school shall retain a certified copy for the permanent record and send the original immunization records for the pupil to the school district to which the pupil transfers.
 - Immunization Exemption
 - When a parent signs and files with the Catholic school, a notarized affidavit stating that immunization is contrary to the religious tenets and practices of the, immunization of the student may not be required.
 - The notarized affidavit must be maintained as part of the student's immunization records.
 - When a parent files with the Catholic school, a written statement signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine, that the physical condition of the student or medical circumstances relating to the student indicate that some or all of the required immunizations are not considered safe and indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances that contraindicate immunization, the student is exempt from the immunization requirements
 - The physician's statement must be maintained as part of the person's immunization records.

7102.4 Student Discipline Records

- The school shall maintain a record of any disciplinary action that is educationally related, with explanation, taken against the student.
- A disciplinary action that is educationally related is an action that results in the expulsion or out-of-school suspension of the student.

7102.6 Academic Grade Reporting

- Grades will be assigned each term and communicated with the parents by way of a conference and/or report card.

- Students in grades 3 – 12 will receive a mid-term
- All students shall receive an end of the term grade report.
 - Parent / Teacher Conferences should be held at least twice each year.
- Diplomas shall not be released until all financial obligations with respect to the student have been satisfied.

7102.8 Student Record Retention

- Student records shall be kept in a centralized, secure and fireproof place, easily accessible to the school administration.
- Original school records shall not be removed from the school premises.
- Anecdotal records, incidental matter, and subjective data will be purged from school records within five (5) years of student graduation / transfer from school.
- A record of transfer replaces the cumulative file.

7102.10 Transfer of Academic Records

- Catholic schools accredited by OPI shall transfer a certified copy of a student's permanent file containing the education records of a student to a local educational agency or accredited school in which the student seeks or intends to enroll within 5 working days after a receipt of a written or electronic request.
 - If records cannot be forwarded within 5 days, the school shall notify the requestor in writing or electronically providing the reasons why it is unable to comply within the 5-day timeframe and provide the date by which the requested records will be transferred.
 - The files that are forwarded must include education records in the permanent file, special education records (See 7102.2), and any disciplinary actions taken against the student that are educationally related (See 7102.4).
- Anecdotal records, incidental matter, and subjective data will not be transferred.

7102.12 Academic Records and Past Due Financial Obligations

- The Catholic school will make every effort to collect tuition and fees prior to the transfer of a student's academic record.
- Each spring, the Tuition / Business Office will present the Principal with a list of students in their final year of school (8th Grade or 12th Grade) with outstanding financial obligations.
 - Students in their final year of school who have outstanding financial obligations will not be allowed to take final exams until all financial obligations to the Catholic School are paid in full.
- Students in their final year of school who have outstanding financial obligations will not receive a diploma until all financial obligations to the Catholic School are paid in full.
 - The Catholic high school will not transfer student records to a college or university, until all tuition and fees are paid in full.
- When a student withdraws from the Catholic School with outstanding financial obligations, the school will retain all student records in their respective student file.
 - If the school is required to release the records to an LEA or an OPI accredited school, it will do so but list student's grades for the term in which he / she withdraws, as "INCOMPLETE" until the tuition and fees are paid in full.

7102.14 Student Record Storage

- The Catholic School shall retain student records, per the following recommendation:
 - Individual student academic records: Permanent – never destroy

Name and address of student	Name and address of parents/guardian
Date of Birth	Academic work completed
Report of student leaving school	Immunization records
Attendance data	Permission for release of school records
Level of achievement (grades, standardized tests, grade level)	
The statewide student identifier assigned by the Office of Public Instruction	
 - Recommended student records: Destroy within five (5) years of student and/or cohort graduation.

Health records	Post-secondary educational plans
Activity participation records	Objective teacher evaluation reports
Parental authorization or prohibitions	Discipline reports and records
Accident reports	Anecdotal reports and records
Grade books	Report card copies

7102.16 Access to Student Records

- Only the school administration and the support staff employee(s) assigned to maintain student records shall have access to student records.
 - Faculty members may have access to all student records with prior approval from the administration.
- A parent/guardian may view a child's record upon request and in the presence of the administration.
 - A parent will not remove a child's cumulative record but may request removal of certain subjective data, e.g., a teacher's opinion, a specific label given the child, etc.
- In the case of students who parents' marriage has been dissolved, both parents shall have access to their child's school records, except for a parent to whom visitation rights with the child have been denied by court order. In such a case, a certified copy of the court order denying visitation rights should be filed with the school.
 - When needing verification of education for a graduate beyond three (3) years, the Catholic Schools will supply the evidence when requested in writing and for a nominal processing fee.

7102.18 Inactive Records

- Attendance records should be summarized annually on the cumulative record or transcript.
- Cumulative records and transcripts are permanent records and, as such, may not be destroyed.

7102.20 Records' Storage / Archives

- Records from closed schools are kept intact or on microfilm at the Diocesan Office.
- When needing verification of education, the school Office will supply the evidence requested for a nominal processing fee.

7104 Maintenance of Records Schedule

- Records are maintained for either legal purposes or for history. The following schedule is a guideline for retention.

Type of Record	Contents	Duration
Student Records	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Name and address of student 2. Name and address of parents/guardian 3. Date of Birth 4. Academic work completed 5. Report of student leaving school 6. Immunization records 7. Attendance data 8. Permission for release of school records 9. Level of achievement (grades, standardized tests, grade level) 10. The statewide student identifier assigned by the Office of Public Instruction 	Indefinitely
Student Records	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health records 2. Post-secondary educational plans 3. Activity participation records 4. Objective teacher evaluation reports 5. Parental authorization or prohibitions 6. Discipline reports and records 7. Accident reports 8. Anecdotal reports and records 9. Grade books 10. Report card copies 	Five years
Teacher Records	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grade book, Lesson plans 2. Classroom attendance 	Five years
Personnel Files	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Copy of the employee's contracts / employment agreements, 2. Record of social security, 3. Name change, 4. Benefits, etc., 5. Original signed application, 6. Observation / Evaluation reports, 7. Record of academic course work, 8. Educational history, 9. Full transcript of credits and experience history, 10. Signed resume of professional accomplishments, 11. Commendations, and acknowledgements, 12. Record of absences, 13. Record of tardiness, 14. Record of Leaves, including a detailed record of sick leave used and sick leave accumulated, 15. Official certificates, 16. Final separation report, 	Indefinitely
Asbestos File	Everything since 1981	Indefinitely
School Council Minutes	A copy of the minutes from each Council Meeting	Indefinitely
School Finances (Not Tuition)	Bank Statements, Payroll, etc.	Seven years
Tuition Records	Tuition assessments, obligations, payment histories, and other financial records pertaining to students or families	Three years after the youngest child of the family leaves school.
Accreditation Reports	Annual Reports, surveys, self-studies, and accreditation visits	Indefinitely

7200 School and Student Data

7202 General Requests for Release of School Data

- Federal, state, and private agencies frequently request educational data from schools and parishes. This data may affect the school's or student's eligibility for participation in numerous programs. Once the data is released, it not only must be substantiated but must be consistent with the statistical data of other years.
- In light of the complexity of issues, such as the eligibility for federal programs, accreditation, certification, etc. all parishes and schools are advised that no educational data or statistics are to be released to any agency or institution unless the request is forwarded from the Catholic Schools Office or Chancery Office or explicit approval for release of such data has been given by the Superintendent.
 - This applies to the completion of forms, surveys, or questionnaires sent from federal, state, or other agencies.
- Catholic school employees, students, or school records of any form will not be subjects of surveys or studies without prior approval of the Catholic Schools Office.
- Catholic schools participating in the federal breakfast, lunch, or milk program should release the required data for participation in those programs.

7204 Release of Information to the Media

- Written permission for publication of the use of names, the likeness of (whether in still, motion pictures, audio, or video tape, photograph, and/or other reproduction) a student (including voice and features with or without the name of the student) for any promotional purposes involving a Catholic school, news, or feature stories in any media, or other purpose whatsoever, must be secured from the parent(s) / guardian(s) of the student.
 - This permission shall be kept on file for the length of time the student is enrolled in the Catholic school.

7206 Data for the Catholic Schools Office

- The Catholic Schools Office is responsible for gathering statistical data for the Diocese, for state and federal agencies, and for national associations. Data requested from each school should be sent to the Superintendent as requested.
- This permission shall be kept on file for the length of time the student is enrolled in the Catholic school.