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3 **INSTRUCTION**

5  
6 Parent/Family Engagement and Involvement in Education Policy

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8 The Board of Trustees believes that engaging parents/families in the education process is  
9 essential to improved academic success for students. The Board recognizes that a student's  
10 education is a responsibility shared by the district, parents, families and other members of the  
11 community during the entire time a student attends school. The Board believes that the district  
12 must create an environment that is conducive to learning and that strong, comprehensive  
13 parent/family involvement is an important component. Parent/Family involvement in education  
14 requires a cooperative effort with roles for the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), the district,  
15 parents/families and the community.

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17 This policy shall be made available to all interested individuals upon request and posted on the  
18 District's website.

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20 Parent/Family Involvement Goals and Plan

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22 The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of eliminating barriers that impede  
23 parent/family involvement, thereby facilitating an environment that encourages collaboration  
24 with parents, families and other members of the community. Therefore, the district will develop  
25 and implement a plan to facilitate parent/family involvement that shall include the following six  
26 (6) goals:

- 27  
28 1. Promote families to actively participate in the life of the school and feel welcomed,  
29 valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and  
30 doing in class;
- 31  
32 2. Promote families and school staff to engage in regular, two-way meaningful  
33 communication about student learning;
- 34  
35 3. Promote families and school staff to continuously collaborate to support student learning  
36 and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to  
37 strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively;
- 38  
39 4. Empower parents to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students  
40 are treated equitably and have access to learning opportunities that will support their  
41 success;
- 42  
43 5. Encourage families and school staff to be partners in decisions that affect children and  
44 families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs; and  
45

1 6. Encourage families and school staff to collaborate with members of the community to  
2 connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community  
3 services, and civic participation.  
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5 The Board of Trustees, in consultation with parents, teachers, administrators, and students has  
6 adopted this District plan for meeting these parent/family involvement goals:  
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8 1. Provide activities that will educate parents/families regarding the intellectual and  
9 developmental needs of their children at all age levels. This will include promoting  
10 cooperation between the district and other agencies or school/community groups to  
11 furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and  
12 child/adolescent development.  
13

14 2. Implement strategies to involve parents/families in the educational process and laws  
15 regarding parent/family rights, including:  
16

17 • Keeping parents/families informed of opportunities for involvement and  
18 encouraging participation in various District programs.  
19

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21 • Providing access to all District policies, District handbooks, Board and  
22 Committee meeting agendas, the District grievance procedure and contact  
23 methods for District administrators and Trustees on the District's website.  
24

25 • Providing access to educational resources a course of study for parents/families to  
26 use together with their children.  
27

28 • Keeping parents/families informed of the objectives of district educational and  
29 activity programs, their child's participation and progress within these programs,  
30 and methods to opt out of such programs and instruction consistent with  
31 parent/family rights.  
32

33 • Promoting parents/families and teacher cooperation in homework, attendance, and  
34 discipline.  
35

36 • Providing information about the nature and purpose of student clubs and groups  
37 meeting at the school in accordance with Policy 3233 and 3550 and methods to  
38 consent to participation or opt out of participation consistent with parent/family  
39 rights.  
40

41 • Providing explanation of rights regarding student name and pronoun use  
42 consistent with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Policy 3600.  
43

44 3. Enable families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles.  
45 For example, parents/family members should be given opportunities to provide input into  
46 district policies and volunteer time within the classrooms and school programs.  
47

- 1 4. Provide professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their  
2 understanding of effective parent/family involvement strategies.  
3
- 4 5. Perform regular evaluations of parent/family involvement at each school and at the  
5 district level.  
6
- 7 6. Provide access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational  
8 curriculum.  
9
- 10 7. If practical, provide information in a language understandable to parents.  
11
- 12 8. Provide annual notification of educational opportunities of the District consistent with  
13 Montana law in the form of the student handbook, the District policy manual as posted on  
14 the District website, or other accessible format on topics which include:  
15
  - 16 • The District’s options for delivery of personalized instruction to students  
17 consistent with Policies 1015FE and 2050, the legislature’s findings at Section 20-  
18 7-1601, MCA. and Article X, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution.
  - 19 • Evaluation, identification, and services provided to students with disabilities  
20 consistent with Section 20-7-411, MCA, Individuals with Disabilities Education  
21 Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Policies 2161 and 2162.
  - 22 • Admission of students to kindergarten consistent with Sections 20-5-101 and 20-  
23 7-117, MCA, and Policy 3110.
  - 24 • Proficiency based learning and other forms of personalized learning including  
25 course equivalency waiver consistent with Section 20-3-324, MCA and Policies  
26 1005FE, 1015FE, 2050, 2410, and 3121.
  - 27 • Participation in extracurricular activities, including participation by nonpublic and  
28 home school students consistent with Section 20-5-112, MCA, and Policy 3150.
  - 29 • Access to remote instruction, including through the Montana Digital Academy  
30 pursuant to Title 20, chapter 7, part 12, non-District sources, and through other  
31 school districts as provided in Section 20-7-118, MCA, and Policies 2050, 2168,  
32 2170, and 2167;
  - 33 • Out-of-district attendance consistent with Title 20, chapter 5, part 3 MCA and  
34 Policies 3110, 3121, and 3141.
  - 35 • Early literacy targeted interventions in accordance with Title 20, MCA and Policy  
36 1010FE.
  - 37 • Part-time enrollment of a student who is otherwise enrolled at a nonpublic or  
38 home school consistent with Section 20-5-101, MCA and Policy 3150.
  - 39 • Availability of funding to support student access to advanced opportunities, if  
40 applicable to a district consistent with Section 20-7-1506, MCA and Policy  
41 1015FE;
  - 42 • Career and technical education pursuant to Title 20, chapter 7, part 3, including  
43 the attainment of industry-recognized credentials and work-based learning,  
44 consistent with Section 20-7-1510, MCA, and Policies 2050, 2410, and 2600.
  - 45 • Early college, dual enrollment, and running start opportunities, consistent with  
46 Section 20-9-706, MCA, and District Policy 2168 and 2410.

- Other opportunities for school-age children through Montana public schools which parents/families and students may rely upon as specified in Policy 2140 which:
  - support the development of a child's full educational potential;
  - assist in reducing the costs of postsecondary education and workforce preparation; and
  - foster life success.

Cross References: Policy 1005FE – Proficiency Based Instruction  
 Policy 1010FE – Early Enrollment  
 Policy 1015FE – Personalized Learning  
 Policy 2050 – Innovative Student Instruction  
 Policy 2132-Student and Family Privacy Rights  
 Policy 2140- Guidance and Counseling  
 Policy 2168 – Distance, Online, and Remote Instruction  
 Policy 2170 – Digital Academy  
 Policy 2335 – Health Enhancement  
 Policy 2410- Graduation Requirements  
 Policy 2600 – Work Based Learning  
 Policy 3110 – Student Entrance and Placement  
 Policy 3121 – Student Enrollment and Attendance  
 Policy 3141 – Non-resident Student Enrollment  
 Policy 3150 – Part Time Enrollment  
 Policy 3233 - Student Building Access and Use  
 Policy 3510 – Student Activities  
 Policy 3550 – Student Clubs and Groups  
 Policy 3600 - Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Legal Reference:  
 Article X, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution.  
 Section 20-7-411, MCA  
 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act  
 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act  
 Section 20-3-324, MCA – Powers and Duties  
 Section 20-5-101, MCA – Admittance of child to school  
 Section 20-5-112, MCA - Participation in extracurricular activities  
 Section 20-7-117, MCA – Kindergarten and preschool programs  
 Section 20-7-118, MCA - Offsite Provision Of Educational Services  
 Section 20-7-1601, MCA – Forms of personalized learning  
 Section 20-7-1506, MCA – Incentives for creation of advanced opportunity programs  
 Section 20-7-1510, MCA- Credit for participating in work-based learning partnerships  
 Section 20-9-706, MCA - Running start program  
 Title 20, chapter 7, part 12 MCA - Montana Digital Academy

1 Title 20, chapter 5, part 3 MCA - Attendance Outside School District  
2 Title 20, chapter 7, part 3 MCA - Vocational and Technical Education  
3 Title 20, chapter 3, part 3 MCA – Board of Trustees  
4 Section 40-6-701, MCA – Fundamental Rights of Parents  
5 10.55.701 Board of Trustees  
6 Chapter 693 (2023) Increase parental involvement in education  
7  
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9 Policy History:  
10 Adopted on:  
11 Reviewed on:  
12 Revised on: 9/13/2023