



Great Falls Public Schools 2013-2014 Strategic Plan



The District's mission, vision and belief statements define the core values that shape the District's direction and action. Those can be found at: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/mission>

While our District has many strengths and successes to build on, we must also seek continuous improvement to make our vision come true for each student. Therefore, the Board sets forth the following goals and key results that it believes are of the highest priority for action in the upcoming school year and beyond. These goals and key results do not describe everything the District is dedicated to accomplishing. While not all programs and services are specifically addressed in these goals and key results, the District is committed to providing a comprehensive educational experience that meets the needs of each student.

The Board, on behalf of the community, directs staff to actively align available resources towards these goals and towards those activities that enhance learning and deliver the best possible results for each student.



Student Achievement

Goal: Increase student achievement for all students while closing the achievement gap.

The Board is committed to ensuring that all students graduate and are college and/or career ready. Every school must improve teaching and learning with a focus on the Montana Content Standards (MCS). Our expectation is that every student will make at least one year of academic growth in each school year.

Key Results:

- By the deadlines set forth by the State of Montana, the District will implement the Montana Content Standards (MCS) in all content areas by providing clear goals for student learning and by focusing instruction and assessment on the knowledge and essential skills that all students will demonstrate for college and/or career readiness.
- By 2015, the District will expand pre-school opportunities for three to five year olds emphasizing kindergarten readiness, in order to close the achievement gap.
- By 2016, the District will increase the graduation rate to 92%. The graduation rate is defined here as the percentage of students who complete the requirements on-time with their cohort.

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Stewardship and Accountability

Goal: Provide prudent stewardship and accountability of public resources to best support educational opportunity and student success.

The Board is committed to directing District resources to providing educational opportunity through both an instructional core and comprehensive programming while maximizing operational efficiency and public accountability within a sustainable budget. The District must recognize a need for a 21st Century learning environment, changing student population with more diverse needs, uncertain revenue streams and escalating costs.

Key Results:

- By 2015, the District will revise the board policy review process in order to provide a contemporary, integrated, and ongoing look at policies that govern the operations of the District.
- By 2015, the District will revise the annual budget setting process by implementing a sustainable, long-term budget strategy.
- In an ongoing manner, the District will provide opportunities for stakeholders to provide input.



Healthy, Safe and Secure Schools

Goal: The District will provide all students a healthy, safe, and secure school environment in which to learn

The Board recognizes its responsibility to protect the health, safety and welfare of all students within the District. The Board is committed to ensuring that plans and supporting resources are available to carry out this important responsibility.

Key Results:

- By 2014 and in accordance with SB 348, develop and board-adopt a District Safety Plan.
- By 2014, review the work of the GFH Master Planning data, analysis and public input to determine next steps for the GFH facility to include whether to refer a bond measure to voters.