

1 Great Falls School District

2  
3 **INSTRUCTION**

2050

4  
5 Student Instruction

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7 The District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy to ensure the delivery of education  
8 services to enrolled students onsite at the school and/or offsite at other locations using available  
9 resources. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to implement this policy.

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11 As outlined in District Policy 2100, and except for students determined by the District to be  
12 proficient using District assessments for elementary or Transformational Learning Plans for  
13 secondary, the adopted calendar has a minimum number of 360 hours for a half-time  
14 kindergarten program, 720 aggregate instructional hours for students in full-time kindergarten  
15 through third grade; 1,080 hours for students in fourth through eleventh grade and 1,050 hours  
16 for students in twelfth grade. Students enrolled on a part-time basis will have ANB calculated  
17 consistent with District Policies 3121 and 3150.

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19 The District may satisfy the aggregate number of hours through any combination of onsite,  
20 offsite, and online instruction. The Superintendent or designee is directed to ensure that all  
21 enrolled students are offered access to the complete range of educational programs and services  
22 for the education program required by the accreditation standards adopted by the Montana Board  
23 of Public Education.

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25 For the purposes of this policy and the District's calculation of ANB under District Policy 3121  
26 and "aggregate hours of instruction" within the meaning of that term in Montana law, the term  
27 "instruction" shall be construed as being synonymous with and in support of the broader goals of  
28 "learning" and full development of educational potential as set forth in Article X, Section 1 of  
29 the Montana Constitution. Instruction includes innovative teaching strategies that focus on  
30 student engagement for the purposes of developing a student's interests, passions, and strengths.  
31 The term instruction is broad in scope. It includes, but is not limited to, any directed,  
32 distributive, collaborative and/or experiential (including work-based) learning activity provided,  
33 supervised, guided, facilitated, or coordinated by the teacher of record in a given course.  
34 Instruction must be done purposely, to achieve content standards proficiency, and to facilitate a  
35 learning environment that develops the full educational potential of each child.

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37 With the exception of students participating in proficiency based plans, the Superintendent or  
38 designee shall calculate the number of hours students have received instruction as defined in this  
39 policy and District Policy 3121 through a combined calculation of services received onsite at the  
40 school or services provided or accessed at offsite or online instructional settings including, but  
41 not limited to, any combination of physical instructional packets, virtual or electronic based  
42 course meetings and assignments, self-directed or parent-assisted learning opportunities, and  
43 other educational efforts undertaken by the staff and students that can be given for grade or  
44 credit. The Superintendent or designee shall report completed hours of instruction as defined in  
45 this policy for final calculation.

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1 In order to comply with the requirements of the calendar, District Policy and § 20-1-301, MCA,  
2 the District shall implement the instructional schedules and methods identified in this policy.

### 3 4 Remote Instruction Delivered by District Staff

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6 When circumstances require, the Board of Trustees authorizes remote instruction of students by  
7 licensed instructors in the State of Montana, in a manner that satisfies the aggregate number of  
8 instructional hours outlined in the District's adopted or revised calendar for a school year, to  
9 include summer learning opportunities. Remote instruction is student instruction that occurs  
10 through virtual learning processes incorporating distance and online learning methods that best  
11 prepare students to meet desired learning outcomes. Remote instruction shall include a range of  
12 educational services offered by the District and shall comply with the requirement of applicable  
13 statutes. Students completing course work through a remote instructional setting shall be treated  
14 in and have their hours of instruction calculated in the same manner as students attending an  
15 onsite instructional setting, except for those with a Transformational Learning Plan.

### 16 17 Remote instruction may be available to students:

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- 19 1. Meeting the residency requirements for that district as provided in § 1-1-215, MCA;
- 20 2. Living in the District and eligible for educational services under the Individuals with  
21 Disabilities Education Act or under 29 U.S.C. 794;
- 22 3. Seeking remote instruction in the nearest district when a student's district of residence  
23 does not provide remote or in-person instruction in an equivalent course. A course is not  
24 equivalent if the course does not provide the same level of advantage of successful  
25 completion, including but not limited to dual credit, advanced placement, and career  
26 certification. The District is not required to provide remote instruction to a nonresident  
27 student if, because of class size restrictions, the accreditation of the school would be  
28 adversely impacted by providing remote instruction of the student.
- 29

30 Equivalency is defined by providing the same level of advantage on successful completion as  
31 provided in law. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to collaborate with the student's  
32 district of residence on the question of equivalency, review course offerings and policies of the  
33 requesting student's district of residence to complete the comparison, and report to the Board of  
34 Trustees. In the event the student's district of residence asserts in writing its course offerings are  
35 equivalent to the District's, the Board of Trustees shall not enroll the student.

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37 A school in a district providing remote instruction shall provide remote instruction to an out-of-  
38 district student under number 3 above unless, because of class size restrictions, the accreditation  
39 of the school would be adversely impacted by providing remote instruction to the student.

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41 The Board of Trustees authorizes district administrators to permit students to utilize remote  
42 instruction delivered by educators licensed in the State of Montana, when circumstances require.  
43 Inquiries about correspondence courses shall be governed by District Policies 2168 and 2169.

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1 Offsite Instruction

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3 “Offsite instructional setting” is an instructional setting that is an extension of district  
4 programming, located apart from a school, but within the boundaries of the District, where the  
5 District provides for in-person student instruction to a student who is enrolled in the District. The  
6 Board of Trustees authorizes district administration to utilize an offsite instructional setting when  
7 circumstances require, consistent with Board of Public Education standards. Inquiries about  
8 correspondence courses shall be governed by Policies 2168 and 2169.

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10 Proficiency-Based Learning

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12 The Board of Trustees authorizes proficiency-based learning and ANB calculation in situations  
13 when a student demonstrates proficiency in a course area as determined by the Board of Trustees  
14 using District assessments consistent with District Policy Policies 1005FE and 2169, or other  
15 measures approved by the Board of Trustees.

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17 The Board of Trustees waives the minimum number of instructional hours for students who  
18 demonstrate proficiency in a course area using district assessments, or meet the standards set  
19 forth by the Transformational Learning Plan, that include, but are not limited to, the course or  
20 class teacher’s determination of proficiency as defined by the Board of Trustees. This  
21 determination shall be based on a review of the student’s mastery of standards, participation in  
22 course delivery, and other methods applicable to the specific course or class. The Board of  
23 Trustees authorizes the use of the proficiency determination process for students who have  
24 selected this method of delivery, students for whom the District is unable to document  
25 satisfaction of the required minimum aggregate number of hours through the offsite or onsite  
26 methods outlined in this policy, or other students whom District personnel determine satisfy the  
27 definition of proficient or meeting proficiency.

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29 This provision is based in the declaration by the Montana Legislature that any regulation  
30 discriminating against a student who has participated in proficiency-based learning is  
31 inconsistent with the Montana Constitution.

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33 Legal References:

34 Article X, Section 1 Montana Constitution  
35 § 1-1-215, MCA Residence – Rules for Determining  
36 § 20-1-101, MCA Definitions  
37 § 20-1-301, MCA School Fiscal Year  
38 § 20-5-320, MCA Attendance with Discretionary Approval  
39 § 20-5-321, MCA Attendance with Mandatory Approval Tuition and Transportation  
40 § 20-5-322, MCA Residency Determination – Notification – Appeal for Attendance  
41 Agreement  
42 § 20-5-323, MCA Tuition and Transportation Rates  
43 § 20-5-324, MCA Tuition Report and Payment Provisions  
44 § 20-9-311, MCA Calculation of Average Number Belonging  
45 § 20-7-118, MCA Offsite Provision of Educational Services  
46 § 20-7-1601, MCA Transformational Learning – Legislative Intent

- 1 ARM 10.55.906(4) High School Credit
- 2 29 U.S.C. 794 Nondiscrimination under Federal Grants and Programs
- 3 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
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5 Cross References:

- 6 Policy 1005FE Proficiency-Based Learning
- 7 Policy 2100 School Calendar
- 8 Policy 2140 Guidance and Counseling
- 9 Policy 2150 Student Awareness and Prevention
- 10 Policy 2168 Distance Learning
- 11 Policy 2169 Proficiency Based Transformational Learning
- 12 Policy 2410 Graduation
- 13 Policy 2420 Grading and Progress Reports
- 14 Policy 3121 Enrollment and Attendance Records
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16 Policy History:

- 17 Adopted on: June 28, 2021
- 18 Revised on: December 13, 2021
- 19 Revised on: September 11, 2023