

1 Great Falls School District

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3 **INSTRUCTION**

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5 School Year Calendar and Day

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7 School Calendar

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9 The Board annually shall establish the dates for opening and closing classes, teacher in-services,  
10 the length and dates of vacation, and the days designated as legal school holidays. The school  
11 calendar shall have a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days or at least the minimum  
12 aggregate hours required by the State of Montana of pupil instruction. When proposing to adopt  
13 changes a previously adopted school term, school week, or school day, the Trustees shall: (a)  
14 negotiate the changes with the recognized collective bargaining unit representing the employees  
15 affected by the changes; (b) solicit input from the employees affected by the changes but not  
16 represented by a collective bargaining agreement; and (c) from the people who live within the  
17 boundaries of the school district.

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19 Commemorative Holidays

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21 Teachers and students shall devote a portion of the day on each commemorative holiday  
22 designated in § 20-1-306, MCA, to study and honor the commemorated person or occasion. The  
23 Board may, from time to time, designate a regular school day as a commemorative holiday.

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25 Saturday School

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27 In emergencies, including during reasonable efforts of the Trustees to make up aggregate hours  
28 of instruction lost during a declaration of emergency by the Trustees under Section 20-9-806,  
29 MCA, pupil instruction may be conducted on a Saturday when it is approved by the Trustees.

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31 Pupil instruction may be held on a Saturday at the discretion of a school district for the purpose  
32 of providing additional pupil instruction beyond the minimum aggregate hours of instruction  
33 required in Section 20-1-301, MCA, provided student attendance is voluntary.

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35 School Fiscal Year

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37 Except as provided by the Board of Trustees, a school year of student instruction shall consist of  
38 at least the following minimum aggregate hours:

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40 a) 360 hours for kindergarten program;  
41 b) 720 hours for grades 1 through 3;  
42 c) 1,080 hours for grades 4 through 12; and  
43 d) 1,050 hours may be sufficient for graduating seniors.

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45 The minimum aggregate hours, described above, are not required for any pupil demonstrating  
46 proficiency pursuant to 20-9-311(4)(d), MCA.

In addition, seven (7) pupil instruction-related (PIR) days may be scheduled for the purposes of:

1. Staff orientation;
2. Staff professional development (minimum of three (3) days); and
3. Parent/teacher conferences.

The Board of Trustees has established an Advisory Committee to develop, recommend, and evaluate the school districts yearly professional development plan. Each year the Board of Trustees shall adopt a Professional Development Plan for the subsequent school year based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

School Day 9-12

1. All full-time High School students are required to enroll in a minimum of five (5) classes (2.5 credits) each semester.
2. Full-time freshmen, sophomores and juniors are required to be in attendance for seven (7) periods. Seniors are required to be in attendance for five (5) periods.
3. Building administrative teams may waive number 1 & 2 above to meet the unique needs of students.

Extended School Year

In accordance with Section 20-1-301, MCA, and any applicable collective bargaining agreement covering the employment of affected employees, the Board of Trustees may establish a school calendar with an earlier start date and a later end date to ensure students receive the minimum number of aggregate instructional hours. The purpose of an extended school year will be to maximize flexibility in the delivery of instruction and learning for each student in the School District. When setting an extended school year, the School District will collaborate with students, parents, employees and other community stakeholders. When proposing to adopt changes to a previously adopted school term, the Board of Trustees will follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

Legal Reference:

§ 20-1-301, MCA	School Fiscal Year
§ 20-1-302, MCA	School Day and Week
§ 20-1-303, MCA	Conduct of School on Saturday or Sunday Prohibited - Exceptions
§ 20-1-304, MCA	Pupil-Instruction-Related Day
§ 20-1-306, MCA	Commemorative Exercises on Certain Days
§ 20-9-311, MCA	Calculation of Annual Number Belonging (ANB)
10.55.701, ARM	Board of Trustees
10.65.101, 103, ARM	Pupil-Instruction-Related Days
10.55.714, ARM	Professional Development
10.55.903, ARM	High School Credit

1 Policy History

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|---|-------------|--------------------|
| 2 | Adopted on: | July 1, 2000       |
| 3 | Revised on: | June 8, 2015       |
| 4 | Revised on: | July 15, 2019      |
| 5 | Revised on: | September 28, 2020 |
| 6 | Revised on: | June 14, 2021      |