

1 Great Falls School District

2  
3 **INSTRUCTION**

2168

4  
5 Distance, Online, and Technology-Delivered Learning

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7 **For purposes of this policy, “distance learning” is defined as:**

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9 Instruction in which students and teachers are separated by time and/or location with  
10 synchronous or asynchronous content, instruction, and communication between student and  
11 teacher (e.g., correspondence courses, online learning, video conferencing, streaming video). In  
12 grades 7-12, the District may utilize a variety of distance, online and technology-delivered  
13 learning platforms including the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) to fulfill these needs when  
14 the District is unable to utilize programs and staff of its own.

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16 **The District may receive and/or provide distance, online, and technology-delivered learning**  
17 **programs, provided the following requirements are met:**

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- 19 1. The distance, online, and technology-delivered learning programs and/or courses shall  
20 meet the learner expectations adopted by the District and be aligned with state content  
21 and performance standards as determined by means of the local review and adoption  
22 process as described in ARM 10.55.603;
  - 23 2. When requested, the District shall provide a report to the Superintendent of Public  
24 Instruction, documenting how it is meeting the needs of students under the accreditation  
25 standards, who are taking a majority of courses during each grading period via distance,  
26 online, and/ or technology-delivered programs;
  - 27 3. The District will provide highly qualified, licensed instructors and/or facilitators as  
28 described in ARM 10.55.907(3)(a)(b)(c);
  - 29 4. The District will ensure that the distance, online, and technology-delivered learning  
30 facilitators receive in-service training on technology-delivered instruction as described in  
31 ARM 10.55.907(3)(d);
  - 32 5. Online courses are accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation program or agency  
33 or are approved and endorsed by the Montana Office of Public Instruction and are  
34 approved by the District;
  - 35 6. Qualified district staff will provide information and guidance to students and parents  
36 regarding the selection of appropriate online courses to meet their needs, as well as a  
37 suitable number of online courses in which a student may enroll;
  - 38 7. The curriculum requirements of the state and District are met;
  - 39 8. Prior permission has been granted by the student’s parent/guardian as part of the  
40 student’s educational plan;
  - 41 9. All online courses taken by student will be approved by the administration in advance of  
42 enrolment;
  - 43 10. The District will comply with all other standards as described in ARM 10.55.907(4)(5)(a-  
44 c); and
  - 45 11. Private / Non-Public students enrolling with the District, for the sake of accessing on-line  
46 courses:

- 1 a. Must enroll for a minimum two periods of on-line or in-person instruction, in order for
- 2 the District to incur the cost now assigned by MTDA, or
- 3 b. The educational facility where they receive their full-time enrollment status must
- 4 reimburse the District for their single period of on-line instruction.

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 6 All distance learning courses offered through the District will be considered 90 hours per  
 7 semester or 180 hours per year, unless specifically designed as a quarter credit (45 hours per  
 8 semester, 90 hours per year).

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 10 The District shall pay for fees for enrolled students, delivered by MTDA, which are required for  
 11 graduation, as specified in District policy or the student handbook, or as determined by the  
 12 Superintendent or designee. The District may charge students a reasonable fee, in conjunction  
 13 with MTDA pricing, for an elective MTDA course or activity not required for graduation. The  
 14 District may charge students for credit recovery courses delivered through distance learning. The  
 15 Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent or designee to waive the fee in cases of financial  
 16 hardship.

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 18 Cross Reference:

19 Policy 2100	School Year Calendar and Day
20 Policy 2120	Curriculum Development and Assessment
21 Policy 2410	High School Graduation Requirements
22 Policy 2410R	Publication of Graduation Requirements
23 Policy 3121	Enrollment and Attendance Records
24 Policy 3121R	Enrollment and Attendance Records
25 Policy 3150	Part-Time Attendance
26 Policy 3150R	Part-Time Attendance

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 28 Legal Reference:

29 ARM 10.55.602	Definitions
30 ARM 10.55.603	Curriculum and Assessment
31 ARM 10.55.705	Administrative Personnel; Assignment of School Administrators/Principals
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33 ARM 10.55.713(c)	Teacher Load and Class Size
34 ARM 10.55.906	High School Credit
35 ARM 10.55.907	Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered learning
36 § 20-7-116, MCA	Supervised Correspondence Study
37 § 20-9-311(4)(d), MCA	Calculation of Average number Belonging

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 39 Policy History:

40 Adopted on:	November 24, 2014
41 Revised on:	September 23, 2019
42 Revised on:	November 8, 2021
43 Reviewed on:	January 27, 2022
44 Revised on:	September 11, 2023