

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **INSTRUCTION**

2221

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5 School Emergencies and Closures

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7 The Superintendent may order closure of schools in the event of extreme weather or other
8 emergency, in compliance with established procedures for notifying parents, students, and staff.

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10 The Board of Trustees is authorized to declare that a state of emergency exists within the
11 community. A declaration issued by the Board of Trustees is distinct from any declaration in
12 effect or previously issued by local, state or federal authorities. An emergency declaration issued
13 by the Board of Trustees authorizes the District to take extraordinary measures to protect
14 students and staff while delivering education services in a manner authorized by law. The
15 method and location of instruction and related educational services shall be implemented in a
16 manner that serves the needs of students, their families, and staff and preserves the District's full
17 entitlement of funding.

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19 The Trustees may order the emergency closure of one or more schools for one (1) school day
20 each year, without the need to reschedule the lost pupil instruction time when the closure is the
21 result of an emergency. The -school-day closure under this subsection is not subject to the
22 reduction in BASE aid pursuant to Section 20-9-805, MCA.

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24 In the event of a declared emergency, the District shall avail itself of all flexibility allowed by
25 law, rule, or regulation and shall be otherwise governed by the school finance laws and rules of
26 the State of Montana. The District shall comply with auditing requirements and reserves the
27 authority to assert its rights to manage school district funds or seek state and federal funds in a
28 manner consistent with the full flexibility available under all applicable laws.

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30 If a declaration of emergency is declared by the Board of Trustees, it may later adopt a resolution
31 that a reasonable effort has been made to reschedule the pupil-instruction time lost because of the
32 unforeseen emergency. If the Trustees adopt the resolution, the pupil-instruction time lost during
33 the closure need not be rescheduled to meet the minimum requirement for aggregate hours that a
34 school district must conduct during the school year in order to be entitled to full BASE aid. At
35 least 75% of the pupil-instruction time lost due to the unforeseen emergency must have been
36 made up before the Trustees can declare that a reasonable effort has been made.

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38 For the purposes of this and related policies, "reasonable effort" means the rescheduling or
39 extension of the District's instructional calendar to make up at least 75% of the hours of pupil
40 instruction lost due to an unforeseen emergency through any combination of the following as
41 outlined in accordance with Policies 2050 and 2100:

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43 a. Extending the school year beyond the last scheduled day.
44 b. The use of scheduled vacation days in the District's adopted school calendar.
45 c. The conduct of pupil instruction on Saturdays.
46 d. Extending instructional hours during the school day.

1 Cross References:

2 Policy 2100 School Calendar and Day
3 Policy 2050 Student Instruction
4 Policy 3122 Attendance Policy
5 Policy 3122R Attendance Policy Regulation
6 Policy 8110 Bus Routes and Schedules

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8 Legal References:

9 § 20-1-101 (17), MCA Definitions
10 § 20-9-801 – 803, MCA Emergency School Closure
11 § 20-9-805 Rate of Reduction in Annual Apportionment Entitlement
12 §20-9-806 School Closure by Declaration of Emergency

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15 Policy History:

16 Adopted on: July 1, 2000
17 Revised on: June 23, 2014
18 Revised on: June 28, 2021
19 Revised on: May 22, 2023