

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **STUDENTS** 3141

4
5 Nonresident Student Enrollment

6
7 For the purposes of this Policy, except as provided in § 20-9-707, MCA, a student’s district of
8 residence must be determined on the basis of the provisions of § 1-1-215, MCA.

9
10 Mandatory Nonresident Enrollment for Extenuating Circumstances

11
12 The District shall enroll a student who resides outside of the District whenever the extenuating
13 circumstances listed in § 20-5-321, MCA, exist.

14
15 Nonresident Enrollment with No Extenuating Circumstances

16
17 Beginning with enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year, whenever the extenuating
18 circumstances listed in §20-5-321, MCA do not exist and mandatory enrollment of a student who
19 resides outside the District is not required, the District may enroll the nonresident student at the
20 request of the student’s parent or guardian as specified in this policy. The District shall serve
21 students who are residents of the district and nonresident students seeking mandatory enrollment
22 for extenuating circumstances prior to enrolling nonresident students seeking to apply when
23 extenuating circumstances do not exist.

24
25 Every nonresident student who seeks to enroll in the District shall apply for admission for the
26 succeeding school year by March 15th for fall enrollment and December 15th for spring
27 enrollment. All applications shall be submitted using the form found at Policy 3141F1 as
28 developed by the Superintendent or designee. For planning purposes, late applications will be
29 accepted only at the Superintendent or designee’s discretion and shall only be considered in
30 extreme and extenuating circumstances.

31
32 Nonresident students must reapply for admission each school year. Admission in one school
33 year does not infer or guarantee admission in subsequent years. Consistent with Policy 3600,
34 each application shall be assigned a unique number distinct from a student identification number
35 that does not disclose a student’s personally identifiable information. Within ten (10) days of the
36 initial application for an agreement, the District shall notify the parent or guardian of the student
37 and district of residence involved in the out-of-district attendance agreement of the anticipated
38 date for approval or disapproval of the agreement.

39
40 The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent or designee to review the applications for
41 nonresident enrollment consistent with this policy and §20-3-320, MCA. Not more than thirty
42 (30) days following the application deadline, the Superintendent or designee shall submit a list of
43 students to the Board of Trustees who applied for enrollment along with recommendations for or
44 against approval for each applicant. The Board of Trustees shall make the decision to approve or
45 deny requests for nonresident enrollment during a meeting of the Board. If individual
46 application review is needed, that review shall be considered during a closed session consistent

1 with Policy 1400 and after giving prior required notice to the parents/guardians of the anticipated
 2 review. Any motion on an application shall be made in open session referring to the distinct
 3 application number.

4
 5 In reviewing and determining whether to approve an application for attendance by a nonresident
 6 student, the Superintendent or designee shall recommend for approval and the Board of Trustees
 7 shall approve the application unless approval of the application will negatively impact the quality
 8 of education for resident students by grade level, by school, or in the District in the aggregate in
 9 one or more of the following ways:

- 10
 11 1. The approval would result in exceeding limits of:
 12 a. building construction standards pursuant to Title 50, chapter 60, MCA;
 13 b. capacity and ingress and egress elements, either by individual room or by school
 14 building, of any fire code authorized by Title 50, chapter 3; or
 15 c. evacuation elements of the district's adopted school safety plan.

16
 17 The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to coordinate with the local fire
 18 marshal, law enforcement, health department, and first responders when developing
 19 standards under this Subsection 1. Findings shall be adopted by the Board in [District's](#)
 20 [Strategic Plan](#) or Facility Plan.

- 21
 22 2. The approval would impede meeting goals, standards, or objectives of quality education
 23 adopted by the Board in the [District's Strategic Plan](#) or plan for continuous improvement.

- 24
 25 3. The approval would risk jeopardizing the educational quality adopted by the Board in the
 26 [District's Strategic Plan](#) or plan for continuous improvement because the nonresident
 27 student who is applying was:

- 28
 29 a. truant as defined in § 20-5-106, MCA, in the last school district attended;
 30 b. expelled by another school district at any time; or
 31 c. suspended in another school district in any of the three (3) school fiscal years
 32 preceding the school fiscal year for which attendance is requested. This Subsection c
 33 does not apply to a student who is eligible for special education or related services.

34
 35 Review and consideration of applications and the records of applicants as well as decisions
 36 regarding admission cannot be conducted inconsistent with District policies regarding
 37 nondiscrimination. In the event the District receives more applications than the District can
 38 accommodate, the District shall prioritize applications on the basis of the quality of education for
 39 students who are residents of the district of attendance as defined by the [District's Strategic Plan](#).
 40 This priority may include applications from students whose parents are at least .5 FTE
 41 employees of the District and employees of the District's contracted transportation provider who
 42 are scheduled for at least 20 hours per week, students with sibling who are currently enrolled in
 43 the District as nonresident students, as well as students with active military parent(s)/guardian(s).
 44 This priority is specifically established and shall be implemented on a rational basis to provide a
 45 quality education to students enrolled in the District. The District may also prioritize applications
 46 based on the anticipated obligations of resident taxpayers.

1 Within ten (10) days of approval or disapproval of an application for non-resident enrollment, the
 2 District shall provide copies of the approved or disapproved attendance agreement to the parent
 3 or guardian and to the district of residence. In the case of a disapproval, the District shall provide
 4 the specific allowable reason for the disapproval consistent with this policy and supporting
 5 documentation.

6
 7 For an approved application and out-of-district attendance agreement the District shall provide a
 8 copy of the completed agreement to the county superintendent of schools of the county of
 9 residence, county superintendent of schools of the county of attendance, and the Superintendent
 10 of Public Instruction. Whenever a student enrolls in and attends a school outside of the student's
 11 district of residence under the provisions of this policy, by July 15 following the year of
 12 attendance, the district of attendance shall notify the district of residence of any financial
 13 obligation under § 20-5-323, MCA.

14
 15 If an out-of-district attendance agreement is disapproved or no action is taken, the parent or
 16 guardian may appeal the disapproval or lack of action in accordance with Montana law.

17
 18 Unless otherwise agreed by the district of residence and the district of attendance, the family of a
 19 nonresident student whose application for attendance has been approved is responsible for
 20 transportation of the student and the student is not an eligible transportee as defined in §20-10-
 21 101, MCA. The district of attendance may discretionarily provide transportation pursuant to §20-
 22 10-122, MCA.

23
 24 Cross References:

25 Policy 1400	Board Meetings
26 Policy 2161	Special Education
27 Policy 2161R	Special Education
28 Policy 3110	Entrance, Placement, and Transfer
29 Policy 3125	Education of Homeless Children
30 Policy 3141P	Nonresident Student Enrollment Procedures
31 Policy 3141F1	Nonresidential Enrollment Application
32 Policy 3141F2	Student Attendance Agreement
33 Policy 3210	Equal Education, Nondiscrimination and Sex Equity
34 Policy 3600	Student Records

35
 36 Legal References:

37 § 20-5-314, MCA	Reciprocal Attendance Agreement with Adjoining State or Province
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 10.55.712, ARM	Class Size Elementary
44 10.55.713, ARM	Teacher Load and Class Size – High School

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1 Policy History:

- 2 Adopted on: July 1, 2000
- 3 Revised on: June 26, 2006
- 4 Revised on: April 13, 2015
- 5 Revised on: September 11, 2023
- 6 Revised on: February 12, 2024