

1 Great Falls School District

2

3 **PERSONNEL**

5232

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5 Child Abuse, Neglect, and Sex Trafficking Reporting

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7 A District employee who has reasonable cause to suspect, as a result of information they receive  
8 in their professional or official capacity, that a child is abused, neglected, or subjected to sex  
9 trafficking by anyone regardless of whether the person suspected of causing the abuse, neglect,  
10 or sex trafficking is a parent or other person responsible for the child’s welfare, shall report the  
11 matter promptly to the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

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13 Child abuse or neglect means actual physical or psychological harm to a child, substantial risk of  
14 physical or psychological harm to a child, exposure to or involvement with sex trafficking, and  
15 abandonment. This definition includes sexual abuse and sexual contact by or with a student. The  
16 obligation to report suspected child abuse or neglect also applies to actual or attempted sexual or  
17 romantic contact between a student and a staff member.

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19 The District administration is authorized to provide access to educational resources for interested  
20 parents, teachers, and students on how to prevent and report child abuse, neglect and sex  
21 trafficking; identify the warning signs of child abuse, neglect and sex trafficking; recognize  
22 predatory behaviors; and coordinate efforts with law enforcement, DPHHS, and local  
23 organizations on these topics.

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25 In addition to reporting to DPHHS, employees are expected to also report their concerns to the  
26 Superintendent, their principal or supervising administrator. An employee does not discharge the  
27 obligation to personally report to DPHHS by notifying the Superintendent, principal, or  
28 supervising administrator.

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30 Any District employee who fails to report a suspected case or abuse, neglect, or sex trafficking to  
31 DPHHS or who prevents another person from doing so, may be civilly liable for the damages  
32 proximately caused by such failure or prevention, and is guilty of a misdemeanor. The employee  
33 will also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

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35 When a District employee makes a report, DPHHS may share information with that individual or  
36 others as permitted by law. Individuals in the District who receive information related to a report  
37 of child abuse, neglect, or sex trafficking shall maintain the confidentiality of the information.

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39 Cross Reference:

40 Child Abuse & Neglect Mandatory Reporting Guidelines

41 <https://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/cms/lib/MT50000605/Centricity/Domain/108/Mandatory%20Reporting%20v%203.pdf>

42 Policy 5223

Personal Conduct

43 Policy 3225

Sexual Harassment of Students

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45 Legal Reference:

46 § 20-7-1316, MCA Child Sex Trafficking Prevention

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1	§ 41-3-201, MCA	Reports
2	§ 41-3-202, MCA	Action on Reporting
3	§ 41-3-203, MCA	Immunity from Liability
4	§ 41-3-205, MCA	Confidentiality – Disclosure Exceptions
5	§ 41-3-207, MCA	Penalty for Failure to Report
6	§ 45-5-501, MCA	Definitions
7	§ 45-5-502, MCA	Sexual Assault

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10 Policy History:

11	Adopted on:	July 1, 2000
12	Revised on:	April 23, 2018
13	Revised on:	November 9, 2020
14	Revised on:	May 24, 2021

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