

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

7125

4
5 Multidistrict Agreements

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7 It is the policy of the District to increase the flexibility and efficiency of the District's resources
8 by utilizing multidistrict agreements whenever possible.

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10 Montana law §20-3-363, MCA, allows the Board of Trustees of any two (2) or more school
11 districts to enter into a multidistrict agreement to create a multidistrict cooperative to perform
12 any services, activities, and undertakings of the participating districts in support of the schools of
13 the districts and to provide for the joint funding and operation and maintenance of all
14 participating districts upon the terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to by the
15 districts.

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17 A multidistrict agreement may include an agreement through which one district provides
18 culturally rooted instruction aligned to a learning environment for English language learners or
19 an Indian language immersion program to pupils of a district participating in the multidistrict
20 agreement. The costs and other terms of service must be reflected in the multidistrict agreement.

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22 The agreement must be approved by the boards of trustees of all participating districts and must
23 include a provision specifying terms upon which a district may exit the multidistrict cooperative.
24 The agreement may be for a period of up to 3 years.

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26 All expenditures in support of the multidistrict agreement may be made from the interlocal
27 cooperative fund as specified in 20-9-703 and 20-9-704. Each participating district of the
28 multidistrict cooperative may transfer funds into the interlocal cooperative fund from the
29 district's general fund, budgeted funds other than the retirement fund or debt service fund, or
30 non-budgeted funds other than the compensated absence liability fund. Transfers to the interlocal
31 cooperative fund from each participating school district's general fund are limited to an amount
32 not to exceed the direct state aid in support of the respective school district's general fund.
33 Transfers from the retirement fund and debt service fund are prohibited. Transfers may not be
34 made with funds restricted by federal law unless the transfer is in compliance with any
35 restrictions or conditions imposed by federal law.

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37 Expenditures from the interlocal cooperative fund are limited to those expenditures that are
38 permitted by law and that are within the final budget for the budgeted fund from which the
39 transfer was made.

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41 If transfers of funds are made from a District fund supported by a non-voted levy, the District
42 may not increase its non-voted levy for the purpose of restoring the amount of funds transferred.

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44 Examples of flexibility under this policy and Montana Law include but are not limited to:

- 45 • A district with a separate high school and elementary budget can enter into an
46 agreement within the district;

- 1 • A district may enter into an agreement with any other school district(s) for the sharing
- 2 of resources, including supplies, services, personnel, etc.

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4 Legal Reference:

5 20-3-363, MCA Multidistrict agreements – fund transfers

6 20-9-703, MCA District as prime agency

7 2-9-704, MCA District as cooperating agency

8 Chapter 580 (2023) Remote Instruction

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10 Policy History:

11 Adopted on: July 17, 2023

12 Reviewed on:

13 Revised on: