

1 **Great Falls School District**

2  
3 **NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS**

8123

4  
5 Driver Training and Responsibility

6  
7 Bus drivers shall observe all state statutes and administrative rules governing traffic safety and  
8 school bus operation. At the beginning of each school year, the District will provide each driver  
9 with a copy of the District’s written rules for bus drivers and for student conduct on buses.

10  
11 School bus drivers must hold a valid Montana school bus certificate for a district to receive state  
12 reimbursement for that driver’s bus routes. A driver may not operate a school bus without a  
13 valid, current certificate. Qualifications for bus drivers are prescribed by 20-10.103, MCA, and  
14 by the Board of Public Education in ARM 10.64.201. The first aid certificate required by ARM  
15 10.64.201 must include instruction in adult and pediatric CPR, be signed by a certified instructor,  
16 and be received after an initial in-person training of at least four (4) hours. The certificate must  
17 be renewed every two (2) years.

18  
19 A school bus driver is prohibited from operating a school bus while using a cellular phone,  
20 including hands free cellular phone devices, except:

- 21 (1) During an emergency situation;
- 22 (2) To call for assistance if there is a mechanical breakdown or other mechanical problem;
- 23 (3) When the school bus is parked.

24  
25 A teacher, coach, or other District staff member assigned to accompany students on a bus will  
26 have primary responsibility for behavior of students in his or her charge. The bus driver has final  
27 authority and responsibility for the bus. The Superintendent, or her/his designee, will establish  
28 written procedures for bus drivers.

29  
30 Maximum Driving Time

31  
32 The district recognizes from a risk management and student safety standard the importance of  
33 driver safety while transporting students. Therefore, the district will meet the federal standard on  
34 maximum driving time for drivers.

35  
36 Cross Reference:

37 2018 Montana School Bus Standards: Bus use for School Activity Trips

38 Legal Reference:

- 39 § 20-10-103, MCA School bus driver qualifications
- 40 10.7.111, ARM Bus Drivers Certification Requirement for Reimbursement
- 41 10.64.201, ARM School Bus Driver Qualifications National Highway Traffic Safety
- 42 Administration
- 43 CFR 49, Part 395 Transportation - Hours of Service for Drivers

44  
45 Policy History:

46 Adopted on: February 11, 2019