

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **INSTRUCTION**

2165

4
5 Early Literacy Targeted Interventions

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7 Purpose and Goals

8
9 The Board of Trustees finds the ability to read at or above grade level is essential for educational
10 success. The purposes of this policy are to:

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- 12 • provide parents with voluntary early literacy interventions for their children;
 - 13 • increase the number of children in the District who are reading proficient at the end of 3rd
14 grade and in so doing help those children develop their full educational potential pursuant
15 to Article X, section 1(1), of the Montana Constitution; and
 - 16 • foster a strong economic return for the state on early literacy investment through
17 enhancing the District's skilled workforce and decreasing future reliance on social
18 programs and the criminal justice system.

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20 The Board of Trustees intends to collaborate with the Board of Public Education and Office of
21 Public Instruction to achieve the purposes of this policy by gathering, analyzing, and making
22 available outcome data and by continually refining the interventions to increase the efficacy and
23 efficiency of each intervention.

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25 Compliance

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27 The early literacy targeted intervention strategies, programs, and services established, authorized,
28 and implemented by this policy shall be in accordance with early childhood education standards
29 at Title 10 Chapter 63 ARM. The early literacy targeted intervention strategies, programs, and
30 services established, authorized, and implemented by this policy shall include, at minimum:

- 31
- 32 • ongoing evaluation of student progress used to tailor instruction to specific student needs;
 - 33 • strategies to encourage, enhance, and honor parental involvement;
 - 34 • methods to employ and assign qualified staff to deliver programming who have
35 completed a fingerprint based criminal background check in accordance with Policy 5120
36 and Policy 5122 and receive regular professional development in accordance with Policy
37 5121;
 - 38 • adherence to eligibility standards;
 - 39 • organization, when applicable, of classrooms which satisfy physical, supervision, safety,
40 and capacity standards; and
 - 41 • dedicated Trustee and administrative leadership in accordance with Policy 6110.

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43 Child Evaluation

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45 An eligible child is defined as a child who has been determined, through evaluation
46 methodologies selected by the Board of Public Education, to be below a trajectory leading to

1 reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade. An eligible child may receive early literacy targeted
2 intervention provided by the District for the subsequent school year in accordance with this
3 policy.

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5 The Board of Trustees authorizes District staff to administer evaluation methodologies from April
6 through June of each year to a child who will be four (4) years of age or older on or before the
7 following September 10th and who has not yet entered 3rd grade.

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9 A child shall not be evaluated to determine eligibility for early targeted literacy intervention
10 using additional assessments not used in the Board Approved Curriculum, without written
11 parental consent.

12 13 Classroom Based Programming

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15 The Board of Trustees has established a full-time classroom based early literacy targeted
16 intervention program. The Board of Trustees authorizes the District staff to admit, enroll, and
17 serve an eligible child who is four (4) years of age or older on or before September 10th of the
18 year in which the child is to participate in the program and who is not entering and who has not
19 completed kindergarten. The classroom-based program shall foster parental engagement and be
20 research-based and proven effective at developing early literacy skills in populations at risk of not
21 being reading proficient at the end of 3rd grade.

22 23 Jumpstart Programming

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25 The Board of Trustees has established a jumpstart early literacy targeted intervention program.
26 The Board of Trustees authorizes the District staff to admit, enroll, and serve an eligible child
27 who is five (5) years of age or older on or before September 10th of the year in which the child is
28 to participate in the program and who has not yet completed 3rd grade.

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30 The District's jumpstart program shall take place during the time between the end of one school
31 calendar year and the start of the next school calendar year, as set by the Board of Trustees in
32 accordance with Policy 2100, preceding a child's entry into kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, or
33 3rd grade. The jumpstart program shall be at least four (4) weeks in duration and provide at least
34 one-hundred twenty (120) instructional hours. The jumpstart program shall be designed in a
35 manner to increase the likelihood of a child being evaluated at the end of the ensuing school year
36 to be at or above a trajectory leading to reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade.

37 38 Reporting and Funding

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40 The Board of Trustees authorizes the District administration to include an eligible child
41 participating in a classroom-based program in accordance with this policy in enrollment counts
42 for the purpose of ANB calculations in the manner described in Policy 3121.

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44 The Board of Trustees authorizes the District administration to include an eligible child
45 participating in a jumpstart program in accordance with this policy in enrollment counts on a
46 quarter-time basis for the purpose of ANB calculations in the manner described in Policy 3121.

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2 The Board of Trustees shall monitor the early literacy intervention programs and authorizes
3 District administration to report annually to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on the
4 efficacy of the program no later than July 15th of each year.

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6 Cross References:

7 Policy 2100 School Calendar
8 Policy 3121 Enrollment and Attendance Calculation
9 Policy 5120 Hiring Practices
10 Policy 5121 Professional Development
11 Policy 5122 Fingerprint Background Checks
12 Policy 6110 Superintendent Responsibilities

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14 Legal References:

15 Article X, section 1(1), of the Montana Constitution
16 10.63, ARM Early Childhood Education
17 § 20-7-1801-1804, MCA Early Literacy Targeted Interventions
18 § 20-9-311, MCA Calculation of ANB

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20 Policy History:

21 Adopted on: June 24, 2024