

1 Great Falls School District

2

3 **INSTRUCTION**

2158

4

5 Family Engagement Policy

6

7 The Board of Trustees believes that engaging parents/families in the education process is
 8 essential to improved academic success for students. The Board recognizes that a student's
 9 education is a responsibility shared by the district, parents, families, and other members of the
 10 community during the entire time a student attends school. The Board believes that the district
 11 must create an environment that is conducive to learning and that strong, comprehensive
 12 parent/family involvement is an important component.

13

14 This policy shall be made available to all interested individuals upon request and posted on the
 15 District's website.

16

17 Parent/Family Involvement Goals and Plan

18

19 The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of parent/family involvement, thereby
 20 facilitating an environment that encourages collaboration with parents, families, and other
 21 members of the community. Therefore, the district will promote the facilitation of parent/family
 22 involvement that shall include the following six (6) goals:

23

- 24 • Promote families to actively participate in the life of the school and feel welcomed,
 25 valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and
 26 doing in class.
- 27 • Promote families and school staff to engage in regular, two-way meaningful
 28 communication about student learning.
- 29 • Promote families and school staff to continuously collaborate to support student learning
 30 and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to
 31 strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
- 32 • Empower parents to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students
 33 are treated equitably and have access to learning opportunities that will support their
 34 success.
- 35 • Encourage families and school staff to be partners in decisions that affect children and
 36 families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs; and
- 37 • Encourage families and school staff to collaborate with members of the community to
 38 connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community
 39 services, and civic participation.

40

41 The Board of Trustees, in consultation with parents, teachers, administrators, and students has
 42 adopted this District plan for meeting these parent/family involvement goals:

43

- 44 1. Provide activities that will educate parents/families regarding the intellectual and
 45 developmental needs of their children at all age levels. This will include promoting
 46 cooperation between the district and other agencies or school/community groups (such as

- 1 parent-teacher groups, Head Start, etc.) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate
 2 information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development.
- 3 2. Implement strategies to involve parents/families in the educational process and laws
 4 regarding parent/family rights, including:
 5
- 6 a. Keeping parents/families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging
 7 participation in various District programs.
 - 8 b. Providing access to all District policies, District handbooks, Board and Committee
 9 meeting agendas, the District grievance procedure and contact methods for District
 10 administrators and Trustees on the District's website.
 - 11 c. Providing access to educational resources and courses of study for parents/families to
 12 use together with their children.
 - 13 d. Keeping parents/families informed of the objectives of district educational and
 14 activity programs and their child's participation and progress within these programs,
 15 and methods to opt out of such programs and instruction consistent with parent/family
 16 rights.
 - 17 e. Promoting parent/families and teacher cooperation in homework, attendance, and
 18 discipline.
 - 19 f. Providing information about the nature and purpose of student clubs and groups
 20 meeting at the school in accordance with Policy 3233 and 3550 and methods to
 21 consent to participation or opt out of participation consistent with parent/family
 22 rights.
 - 23 g. Providing explanation of rights regarding student name and pronoun use consistent
 24 with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Policy 3600.
 25
- 26 3. Enabling parents/family members to participate in the education of their children through
 27 a variety of roles. For example, parents/family members should be given opportunities to
 28 provide input into district policies and volunteer time within the classrooms and school
 29 programs.
- 30 4. Providing professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their
 31 understanding of effective parent/family involvement strategies.
- 32 5. Performing regular evaluations of parent/family involvement at each school and at the
 33 district level.
- 34 6. Provide access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational
 35 curriculum.
- 36 7. If practical, provide information in a language understandable to parents.
- 37 8. Provide annual notification of educational opportunities of the District consistent with
 38 Montana law in the form of the student handbook, the District policy manual as posted on
 39 the District's website, or other accessible format on topics which include:
- 40 a. The District's options for delivery of personalized instruction to students
 41 consistent with Policies 1015FE and 2050, the legislature's findings at § 20-7-
 42 1601, MCA, and Article X Section 1 of the Montana Constitution.
 - 43 b. Evaluation, identification, and services provided to students with disabilities
 44 consistent with § 20-7-411, MCA, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,
 45 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Policies 2161 and 2162.

- 1 c. Admission of students to kindergarten consistent with § 20-5-101 and § 20-7-117,
2 MCA, and Policy 3110.
- 3 d. Proficiency based learning and other forms of personalized learning including
4 course equivalency waiver consistent with § 20-3-324, MCA and Policies
5 1005FE, 1015FE, 2050, 2410 and 3121.
- 6 e. Participation in extracurricular activities, including participation by nonpublic and
7 home school students consistent with § 20-5-112, MCA and Policy 3150.
- 8 f. Access to remote instruction, including through the Montana Digital Academy
9 pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 12, non-District sources, and through other
10 school districts as provided in § 20-7-118. MCA, and Policies 2050, 2168.
- 11 g. Out-of-district attendance consistent with Title 20, Chapter 5, Part 3 MCA, and
12 Policies 3110, 3121, and 3141.
- 13 h. Early targeted interventions in accordance with Title 20, MCA.
- 14 i. Part-time enrollment of a student who is otherwise enrolled at a nonpublic or
15 home school consistent with § 20-5-101, MCA and Policy 3150.
- 16 j. Availability of funding to support student access to advanced opportunities, if
17 applicable to a district consistent with § 20-7-1506, MCA and Policy 1015FE.
- 18 k. Career and Technical Education pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 3, including
19 the attainment of industry-recognized credentials and work-based learning,
20 consistent with § 20-7-1510, MCA and Policies 2050, 2410, 2600.
- 21 l. Early college, dual enrollment, and running start opportunities, consistent with §
22 20-9-706, MCA and Policies 2168 and 2410.
- 23 m. Other opportunities for school-age children through Montana public schools
24 which parents/families and students may rely upon as specified in Policy 2140
25 which:
 - 26 i. Support the development of a child’s full educational potential;
 - 27 ii. Assist in reducing the costs of postsecondary education and workforce
28 preparation; and
 - 29 iii. Foster life success.

30
31 Cross References:

32 Policy 1005FE	Proficiency Based ANB
33 Policy 1015FE	Personalized Learning Opportunities
34 Policy 1770	Uniform Complaint Procedure
35 Policy 2050	Student Instruction
36 Policy 2131	Student and Family Privacy Rights
37 Policy 2140	Guidance and Counseling
38 Policy 2168	Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered Learning
39 Policy 2335	Health Enhancement
40 Policy 2410	High School Graduation Requirements
41 Policy 2410P	Profile of a Learner
42 Policy 2410P2	Profile of a Learner – Commitment and Intentions
43 Policy 2600	Work Experience/Internship Program
44 Policy 3110	Entrance, Placement and Transfer
45 Policy 3121	Enrollment and Attendance Records

1	Policy 3141	Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance Policy
2	Policy 3150	Part-Time Attendance
3	Policy 3233	Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access
4	Policy 3510	Student Sponsored Student Activities
5	Policy 3550	Student Clubs
6	Policy 3600	Student Records
7		
8	<u>Legal Reference:</u>	
9	Article X, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution	
10	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act	
11	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act	
12	§ 20-3-324, MCA	Powers and Duties
13	§ 20-3-326, MCA	Information on Educational Opportunities – Duties of
14		Trustees
15	§ 20-5-101, MCA	Admittance of Child to School
16	§ 20-5-112, MCA	Participation in Extracurricular Activities
17	§ 20-5-314, MCA	Reciprocal Attendance Agreement with Adjoining State or
18		Province
19	§ 20-5-320, MCA	Attendance with Discretionary Approval
20	§ 20-5-321, MCA	Attendance with Mandatory Approval – Tuition and
21		Transportation
22	§ 20-5-322, MCA	Residency Determination – Notification – Appeal for
23		Attendance Agreement
24	§ 20-7-117, MCA	Kindergarten and Preschool Programs
25	§ 20-7-118, MCA	Offsite Provision of Educational Services
26	§ 20-7-411, MCA	Regular Classes Preferred – Obligation to Establish Special
27		Education Program
28	§ 20-7-1506, MCA	Incentives for Creation of Advanced Opportunity Programs
29	§ 20-7-1510, MCA	Credit for Participating in Work-Based Learning
30		Partnerships
31	§ 20-7-1601, MCA	Forms of Personalized Learning
32	§ 20-9-706, MCA	Running Start Program
33	§ 40-6-701, MCA	Interference with Fundamental Parental Rights Restricted
34	§ 40-6-702, MCA	Fundamental Parental Rights
35	§ 40-6-703, MCA	Increase Parental Rights
36	Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 3, MCA	Vocational and Technical Education
37	Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 12, MCA	Montana Digital Academy
38	10.55.701(2)(m) ARM	Board of Trustees
39	10.55.601, ARM	Accreditation Standards: Procedures
40	10.55.722, ARM	Family and Community Engagement
41	10.55.723, ARM	Integrated Strategic Action Plan
42		
43		

- 1 Policy History:
- 2 Adopted on: November 24, 2014
- 3 Revised on: November 28, 2022
- 4 Revised on: August 21, 2023
- 5 Reviewed on: February 27, 2024
- 6 Revised on: August 11, 2025