

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **INSTRUCTION**

2165

4
5 Early Targeted Interventions

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7 Purpose and Goals

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9 The Board of Trustees finds proficiency in reading and math at or above grade level to be
10 essential for educational success. The purposes of this policy are to:

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- 12 • provide parents with voluntary early interventions for their children;
 - 13 • increase the number of children in the District who are reading and math proficient at the
14 end of 3rd grade and in so doing help those children develop their full educational
15 potential pursuant to Article X, section 1(1), of the Montana Constitution; and
 - 16 • foster a strong economic return for the state on early literacy and math investment
17 through enhancing the District's skilled workforce and decreasing future reliance on
18 social 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 targeted intervention strategies, programs, and services established, authorized, and
28 implemented by this policy shall be in accordance with early childhood education standards at
29 Title 10 Chapter 63 ARM. The early targeted intervention strategies, programs, and services
30 established, authorized, and implemented by this policy shall include, at minimum:

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- 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 or math proficiency at the end of 3rd grade. An eligible child may receive early 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 intervention without
10 written parental consent.

11 Classroom Based Programming

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

21 Jumpstart Programming

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

28
29 An eligible child participating in a jumpstart program provided by a District other than the
30 child's resident school district does not require an out-of-district attendance agreement and is not
31 subject to the tuition laws under §20-5-320 through §20-5-324, MCA.

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

40 Reporting and Funding

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

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

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

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9 Cross References:

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

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17 Legal References:

18	Article X, section 1(1)	Montana Constitution
19	Title 10, Chapter 63	Early Childhood Education
20	§ 20-7-1801-1804, MCA	Early Targeted Interventions
21	§ 20-9-311, MCA	Calculation of ANB
22	HB 338 (2025)	
23	SB 35 (2025)	

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25 Policy History:

26	Adopted on:	June 24, 2024
27	Revised on:	August 25, 2025