

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **INSTRUCTION**

2050

4
5 Student Instruction

6
7 The District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy to ensure the delivery of education
8 services to enrolled students onsite at the school and/or offsite at other locations using available
9 resources. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to implement this policy.

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11 As outlined in District Policy 2100, and except for students determined by the District to be
12 proficient using District assessments for elementary or Transformational Learning Plans for
13 secondary, the adopted calendar has a minimum number of 360 hours for a half-time
14 kindergarten program, 720 aggregate instructional hours for students in full-time kindergarten
15 through third grade; 1,080 hours for students in fourth through eleventh grade and 1,050 hours
16 for students in twelfth grade. Students enrolled on a part-time basis will have ANB calculated
17 consistent with District Policies 3121 and 3150.

18
19 The District may satisfy the aggregate number of hours through any combination of onsite,
20 offsite, and online instruction. The Superintendent or designee is directed to ensure that all
21 enrolled students are offered access to the complete range of educational programs and services
22 for the education program required by the accreditation standards adopted by the Montana Board
23 of Public Education.

24
25 For the purposes of this policy and the District's calculation of ANB under District Policy 3121
26 and "aggregate hours of instruction" within the meaning of that term in Montana law, the term
27 "instruction" shall be construed as being synonymous with and in support of the broader goals of
28 "learning" and full development of educational potential as set forth in Article X, Section 1 of
29 the Montana Constitution. Instruction includes innovative teaching strategies that focus on
30 student engagement for the purposes of developing a student's interests, passions, and strengths.
31 The term instruction is broad in scope. It includes, but is not limited to, any directed,
32 distributive, collaborative and/or experiential (including work-based) learning activity provided,
33 supervised, guided, facilitated, or coordinated by the teacher of record in a given course.
34 Instruction must be done purposely, to achieve standards proficiency, and to facilitate a learning
35 environment that develops the full educational potential of each child.

36
37 With the exception of students participating in proficiency based plans, the Superintendent or
38 designee shall calculate the number of hours students have received instruction as defined in this
39 policy and District Policy 3121 through a combined calculation of services received onsite at the
40 school or services provided or accessed at offsite or online instructional settings including, but
41 not limited to, any combination of physical instructional packets, virtual or electronic based
42 course meetings and assignments, self-directed or parent-assisted learning opportunities, and
43 other educational efforts undertaken by the staff and students that can be given for grade or
44 credit. The Superintendent or designee shall report completed hours of instruction as defined in
45 this policy for final calculation.

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1 In order to comply with the requirements of the calendar, District Policy and § 20-1-301, MCA,
2 the District shall implement the instructional schedules and methods identified in this policy.

3 4 Remote Instruction Delivered by District Staff

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6 When circumstances require, the Board of Trustees authorizes remote instruction of students by
7 licensed instructors in the State of Montana, in a manner that satisfies the aggregate number of
8 instructional hours outlined in the District's adopted or revised calendar for a school year, to
9 include summer learning opportunities. Remote instruction is student instruction that occurs
10 through virtual learning processes incorporating distance and online learning methods that best
11 prepare students to meet desired learning outcomes. Remote instruction shall include a range of
12 educational services offered by the District and shall comply with the requirement of applicable
13 statutes. Students completing course work through a remote instructional setting shall be treated
14 in and have their hours of instruction calculated in the same manner as students attending an
15 onsite instructional setting, except for those with a Transformational Learning Plan.

16
17 Remote instruction may be available to students:

- 18
- 19 • Meeting the residency requirements for that district as provided in §1-1-215, MCA;
 - 20 • Living in the District and eligible for educational services under the Individuals with
21 Disabilities Education Act or under 29 U.S.C. 794;
 - 22 • Enrolled in the District and physically attending a school or offsite instructional setting of
23 the District under an attendance agreement pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 5, Part 3, MCA;
24 or
 - 25 • Seeking remote instruction in another district when a student's district of residence does
26 not provide remote or in-person instruction in an equivalent course. A course is not
27 equivalent if the course does not provide the same level of advantage of successful
28 completion, including but not limited to dual credit, advanced placement, and career
29 certification. The District is not required to provide remote instruction to a nonresident
30 student if, because of class size restrictions, the accreditation of the school would be
31 adversely impacted by providing remote instruction of the student.
- 32

33 A district providing remote instruction shall include students in enrollment counts for ANB
34 calculation purposes as described in §20-9-311, MCA. Unless a student receiving remote
35 instruction is enrolled under an attendance agreement pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 5, Part 3,
36 MCA, the provisions of out-of-district attendance and tuition laws under Title 20, Chapter 5, Part
37 3, MCA, do not apply to remote instruction.

38
39 Equivalency is defined by providing the same level of advantage on successful completion as
40 provided in law. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to collaborate with the student's
41 district of residence on the question of equivalency, review course offerings and policies of the
42 requesting student's district of residence to complete the comparison, and report to the Board of
43 Trustees. In the event the student's district of residence asserts in writing its course offerings are
44 equivalent to the District's, the Board of Trustees shall not enroll the student.

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1 A school in a district providing remote instruction shall provide remote instruction to an out-of-
 2 district student under number 3 above unless, because of class size restrictions, the accreditation
 3 of the school would be adversely impacted by providing remote instruction to the student.

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 5 The Board of Trustees authorizes district administrators to permit students to utilize remote
 6 instruction delivered by educators licensed in the State of Montana, when circumstances require.
 7 Inquiries about correspondence courses shall be governed by District Policies 2168 and 2169.

8 9 Offsite Instruction

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 11 “Offsite instructional setting” is an instructional setting that is an extension of district
 12 programming, located apart from a school, but within the boundaries of the District, where the
 13 District provides for in-person student instruction to a student who is enrolled in the District. The
 14 Board of Trustees authorizes district administration to utilize an offsite instructional setting when
 15 circumstances require, consistent with Board of Public Education standards. Inquiries about
 16 correspondence courses shall be governed by Policies 2168 and 2169.

17 18 Proficiency-Based Learning

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 20 The Board of Trustees authorizes proficiency-based learning and ANB calculation in situations
 21 when a student demonstrates proficiency in a course area as determined by the Board of Trustees
 22 using District assessments consistent with District Policies 1005FE and 2169, or other measures
 23 approved by the Board of Trustees.

24
 25 The Board of Trustees waives the minimum number of instructional hours for students who
 26 demonstrate proficiency in a course area using district assessments, or meet the standards set
 27 forth by the Transformational Learning Plan, that include, but are not limited to, the course or
 28 class teacher’s determination of proficiency as defined by the Board of Trustees. This
 29 determination shall be based on a review of the student’s mastery of standards, participation in
 30 course delivery, and other methods applicable to the specific course or class. The Board of
 31 Trustees authorizes the use of the proficiency determination process for students who have
 32 selected this method of delivery, students for whom the District is unable to document
 33 satisfaction of the required minimum aggregate number of hours through the offsite or onsite
 34 methods outlined in this policy, or other students whom District personnel determine satisfy the
 35 definition of proficient or meeting proficiency.

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 37 This provision is based in the declaration by the Montana Legislature that any regulation
 38 discriminating against a student who has participated in proficiency-based learning is
 39 inconsistent with the Montana Constitution.

40 41 Legal References:

42 Article X, Section 1 Montana Constitution
 43 § 1-1-215, MCA Residence – Rules for Determining
 44 § 20-1-101, MCA Definitions
 45 § 20-1-301, MCA School Fiscal Year
 46 § 20-5-320, MCA Attendance with Discretionary Approval

1	§ 20-5-321, MCA	Attendance with Mandatory Approval Tuition and Transportation
2	§ 20-5-322, MCA	Residency Determination – Notification – Appeal for Attendance
3		Agreement
4	§ 20-5-323, MCA	Tuition and Transportation Rates
5	§ 20-5-324, MCA	Tuition Report and Payment Provisions
6	§ 20-6-101, MCA	Definition of Elementary and High School District
7	§ 20-7-118, MCA	Offsite Provision of Educational Services
8	§ 20-7-1601, MCA	Transformational Learning – Legislative Intent
9	§ 20-9-311, MCA	Calculation of Average Number Belonging
10	ARM 10.55.906(4)	High School Credit
11	29 U.S.C. 794	Nondiscrimination under Federal Grants and Programs
12		Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
13		
14	<u>Cross References:</u>	
15	Policy 1005FE	Proficiency-Based Learning
16	Policy 2100	School Calendar
17	Policy 2140	Guidance and Counseling
18	Policy 2150	Suicide Awareness and Prevention
19	Policy 2158	Family Engagement Policy
20	Policy 2161	Special Education
21	Policy 2161R	Special Education
22	Policy 2162	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
23	Policy 2162P	Procedure for Education of Students with Disabilities Under Section 504
24		of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
25	Policy 2166	Gifted Program
26	Policy 2168	Distance, Online, and Technology-Delivered Learning
27	Policy 2169	Proficiency Based Transformational Learning
28	Policy 2221	School Emergencies and Closures
29	Policy 2410	Graduation
30	Policy 2420	Grading and Progress Reports
31	Policy 2421	Promotion/Retention
32	Policy 2600	Work Experience/Internship Program
33	Policy 2600P	Work Experience/Internship Program – Insurance
34	Policy 2600F	GFPS Work Experience/Internship Affiliation Agreement
35	Policy 3121	Enrollment and Attendance Records
36	Policy 3150	Part-Time Attendance
37	Policy 3612	District-Provided Access to Electronic Information, Equipment, Service,
38		and Networks
39	Policy 3612P	Student Computer Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement
40	Policy 3612F	Student Computer Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Agreement Form
41		(Student Handbook)
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43	<u>Policy History:</u>	
44	Adopted on:	June 28, 2021
45	Revised on:	December 13, 2021
46	Revised on:	September 11, 2023

1 Revised on: September 8, 2025