

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **INSTRUCTION**

2100

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5 School Year Calendar and Day

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7 School Calendar

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9 The Board annually shall establish the dates for opening and closing classes, teacher in-services,
10 the length and dates of vacation, and the days designated as legal school holidays. The school
11 calendar shall have a minimum of one hundred eighty (180) days or at least the minimum
12 aggregate hours required by the State of Montana of pupil instruction. When proposing to adopt
13 changes a previously adopted school term, school week, or school day, the Trustees shall: (a)
14 negotiate the changes with the recognized collective bargaining unit representing the employees
15 affected by the changes; (b) solicit input from the employees affected by the changes but not
16 represented by a collective bargaining agreement; and (c) from the people who live within the
17 boundaries of the school district.

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19 Commemorative Holidays

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21 The Superintendent or designee shall develop for Board approval appropriate exercises and
22 observances the purpose of which shall be to educate students regarding the commemorated
23 person or occasion on the following designated commemorative days:

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- Lincoln's Birthday (February 12);
 - Washington's Birthday (February 22);
 - Arbor Day (last Friday in April);
 - Flag Day (June 14);
 - Citizenship/Constitution Day (September 17);
 - American Indian Heritage Day (fourth Friday in September);
 - Columbus Day (October 12);
 - Pioneer Day (November 1);
 - Freedom Week (last full week of September), to educate students about the sacrifices
24 made for freedom in the founding of the United States and the values on which the
25 United States was founded;
 - Other days designated by the legislature or governor as legal holidays.
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38 Saturday School

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40 In emergencies, including during reasonable efforts of the Trustees to make up aggregate hours
41 of instruction lost during a declaration of emergency by the Trustees under §20-9-806, MCA,
42 pupil instruction may be conducted on a Saturday when it is approved by the Trustees.

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44 Pupil instruction may be held on a Saturday at the discretion of a school district for the purpose
45 of providing additional pupil instruction beyond the minimum aggregate hours of instruction
46 required in Section 20-1-301, MCA, provided student attendance is voluntary.

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2 School Fiscal Year
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4 Except as provided by the Board of Trustees, a school year of student instruction shall consist of
5 at least the following minimum aggregate hours:
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- 7 a) 360 hours for kindergarten program;
8 b) 720 hours for grades 1 through 3;
9 c) 1,080 hours for grades 4 through 12; and
10 d) 1,050 hours may be sufficient for graduating seniors.
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12 The minimum aggregate hours, described above, are not required for any pupil demonstrating
13 proficiency pursuant to 20-9-311(4)(d), MCA.

14 In addition, seven (7) pupil instruction-related (PIR) days may be scheduled for the purposes of:
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- 16 1. Staff orientation;
17 2. Staff professional development (minimum of three (3) days); and
18 3. Parent/teacher conferences.
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20 The Board of Trustees has established an Advisory Committee to develop, recommend, and
21 evaluate the school districts yearly professional development plan. Each year the Board of
22 Trustees shall adopt a Professional Development Plan for the subsequent school year based on
23 the recommendation of the Advisory Committee.
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25 School Day 9-12
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- 27 1. All full-time High School students are required to enroll in a minimum of five (5) classes
28 (2.5 credits) each semester.
29 2. Full-time freshmen, sophomores and juniors are required to be in attendance for seven (7)
30 periods. Seniors are required to be in attendance for five (5) periods.
31 3. Building administrative teams may waive number 1 & 2 above to meet the unique needs
32 of students.
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34 Extended School Year
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36 In accordance with Section 20-1-301, MCA, and any applicable collective bargaining agreement
37 covering the employment of affected employees, the Board of Trustees may establish a school
38 calendar with an earlier start date and a later end date to ensure students receive the minimum
39 number of aggregate instructional hours. The purpose of an extended school year will be to
40 maximize flexibility in the delivery of instruction and learning for each student in the School
41 District. When setting an extended school year, the School District will collaborate with students,
42 parents, employees and other community stakeholders. When proposing to adopt changes to a
43 previously adopted school term, the Board of Trustees will follow the procedures outlined in this
44 policy.
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46 Cross References:

1	Policy 1005FE	Proficiency Based ANB
2	Policy 2140	Guidance and Counseling
3	Policy 2221	School Emergencies and Closures
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5	<u>Legal Reference:</u>	
6	§ 20-1-301, MCA	School Fiscal Year
7	§ 20-1-302, MCA	School Day and Week
8	§ 20-1-303, MCA	Conduct of School on Saturday or Sunday Prohibited - Exceptions
9	§ 20-1-304, MCA	Pupil-Instruction-Related Day
10	§ 20-1-306, MCA	Commemorative Exercises on Certain Days
11	§ 20-9-311, MCA	Calculation of Annual Number Belonging (ANB)
12	10.55.701, ARM	Board of Trustees
13	10.65.101, 103, ARM	Pupil-Instruction-Related Days
14	10.55.714, ARM	Professional Development
15	10.55.906, ARM	High School Credit
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17	<u>Policy History</u>	
18	Adopted on:	July 1, 2000
19	Revised on:	June 8, 2015
20	Revised on:	July 15, 2019
21	Revised on:	September 28, 2020
22	Revised on:	June 14, 2021
23	Revised on:	September 8, 2025