

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **STUDENT**

3141

4
5 Nonresident Student Enrollment

6
7 For the purposes of this Policy, except as provided in § 20-9-707, MCA, a student's district of
8 residence must be determined on the basis of the provisions of § 1-1-215, MCA.

9
10 Mandatory Nonresident Enrollment for Extenuating Circumstances

11
12 The District shall enroll a student who resides outside of the District whenever the extenuating
13 circumstances listed in § 20-5-321, MCA, exist.

14
15 Nonresident Enrollment with No Extenuating Circumstances

16
17 Beginning with enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year, whenever the extenuating
18 circumstances listed in §20-5-321, MCA do not exist and mandatory enrollment of a student who
19 resides outside the District is not required, the District may enroll the nonresident student at the
20 request of the student's parent or guardian as specified in this policy. The District shall serve
21 students who are residents of the district and nonresident students seeking mandatory enrollment
22 for extenuating circumstances prior to enrolling nonresident students seeking to apply when
23 extenuating circumstances do not exist.

24
25 Every nonresident student who seeks to enroll in the District shall apply for admission for the
26 succeeding school year by March 15th for fall enrollment and December 15th for spring
27 enrollment. All applications shall be submitted using the form found at Policy 3141F1 as
28 developed by the Superintendent or designee. For planning purposes, late applications will be
29 accepted only at the Superintendent or designee's discretion and shall only be considered in
30 extreme and extenuating circumstances.

31
32 Nonresident students must reapply for admission each school year. Admission in one school
33 year does not infer or guarantee admission in subsequent years. Consistent with Policy 3600,
34 each application shall be assigned a unique number distinct from a student identification number
35 that does not disclose a student's personally identifiable information. Within ten (10) days of the
36 initial application for an agreement, the District shall notify the parent or guardian of the student
37 and district of residence involved in the out-of-district attendance agreement of the anticipated
38 date for approval or disapproval of the agreement.

39
40 The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent or designee to review the applications for
41 nonresident enrollment consistent with this policy and §20-3-320, MCA. Not more than thirty
42 (30) days following the application deadline, the Superintendent or designee shall submit a list of
43 students to the Board of Trustees who applied for enrollment along with recommendations for or
44 against approval for each applicant. The Board of Trustees shall make the decision to approve or
45 deny requests for nonresident enrollment during a meeting of the Board. If individual
46 application review is needed, that review shall be considered during a closed session consistent

1 with Policy 1400 and after giving prior required notice to the parents/guardians of the anticipated
 2 review. Any motion on an application shall be made in open session referring to the distinct
 3 application number.

4
 5 In reviewing and determining whether to approve an application for attendance by a nonresident
 6 student, the Superintendent or designee shall recommend for approval and the Board of Trustees
 7 shall approve the application unless approval of the application will negatively impact the quality
 8 of education for resident students by grade level, by school, or in the District in the aggregate in
 9 one or more of the following ways:

- 10
 11 1. The approval would result in exceeding limits of:
 12 a. Building construction standards pursuant to Title 52, Chapter 60, MCA;
 13 b. Capacity and ingress and egress elements, either by individual room or by school
 14 building, of any fire code authorized by Title 50, Chapter 3;
 15 c. Maximum student contract hours for teacher of the class or maximum class sizes
 16 under accreditation standards of the Board of Public Education; or
 17 d. Evacuation elements of the district's adopted school safety plan.

18
 19 The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to coordinate with the local fire
 20 marshal, law enforcement, health department, and first responders when developing
 21 standards under this Subsection 1. Findings shall be adopted by the Board in [District's](#)
 22 [Strategic Plan](#) or Facility Plan.

- 23
 24 2. The approval would impede meeting goals, standards, or objectives of quality education
 25 adopted by the Board in the [District's Strategic Plan](#) or plan for continuous improvement.
 26
 27 3. The approval would risk jeopardizing the educational quality adopted by the Board in the
 28 [District's Strategic Plan](#) or plan for continuous improvement because the nonresident
 29 student who is applying was:
 30 a. truant as defined in § 20-5-106, MCA, in the last school district attended;
 31 b. expelled by another school district at any time; or
 32 c. suspended in school or out of school in any school district in which the
 33 nonresident child was enrolled in any of the three (3) school fiscal years preceding
 34 the school fiscal year for which attendance is requested. This Subsection c does
 35 not apply to a student who is eligible for special education or related services.

36
 37 Review and consideration of applications and the records of applicants as well as decisions
 38 regarding admission cannot be conducted inconsistent with District policies regarding
 39 nondiscrimination. In the event the District receives more applications than the District can
 40 accommodate, the District shall prioritize applications on the basis of the quality of education for
 41 students who are residents of the district of attendance as defined by the [District's Strategic Plan](#).
 42 This priority may include applications from students whose parents are at least .5 FTE
 43 employees of the District and employees of the District's contracted transportation provider who
 44 are scheduled for at least 20 hours per week, students with sibling who are currently enrolled in
 45 the District as nonresident students, as well as students with active military parent(s)/guardian(s).
 46 This priority is specifically established and shall be implemented on a rational basis to provide a

1 quality education to students enrolled in the District. The District may also prioritize applications
 2 based on the anticipated obligations of resident taxpayers.
 3

4 Within ten (10) days of approval or disapproval of an application for non-resident enrollment, the
 5 District shall provide copies of the approved or disapproved attendance agreement to the parent
 6 or guardian and to the district of residence. In the case of a disapproval, the District shall provide
 7 the specific allowable reason for the disapproval consistent with this policy and supporting
 8 documentation.
 9

10 For an approved application and out-of-district attendance agreement the District shall provide a
 11 copy of the completed agreement to the county superintendent of schools of the county of
 12 residence, county superintendent of schools of the county of attendance, and the Superintendent
 13 of Public Instruction. Whenever a student enrolls in and attends a school outside of the student's
 14 district of residence under the provisions of this policy, by July 15 following the year of
 15 attendance, the district of attendance shall notify the district of residence of any financial
 16 obligation under § 20-5-323, MCA.
 17

18 If an out-of-district attendance agreement is disapproved or no action is taken, the parent or
 19 guardian may appeal the disapproval or lack of action in accordance with Montana law.
 20

21 Transportation

22
 23 (A) An attendance agreement established under §20-5-320, MCA or §20-5-321, MCA, must set
 24 forth the financial obligations, if any, for costs incurred for transportation as provided in §20-5-
 25 323, MCA, and Title 20, Chapter 10, MCA.
 26

27 (B) If the attendance agreement is for a child with a disability who has transportation included in
 28 the child's individualized educational program, transportation or the costs of transportation must
 29 be paid by the child's district of residence.
 30

31 (C) Unless the attendance agreement is for a child with a disability who has transportation
 32 included in the child's individualized education program and unless otherwise agreed to in the
 33 out-of-district attendance agreement:
 34

- 35 • When a child has approval to attend a school outside the child's district of
 36 residence because of a parent's or guardian's request under the provisions of §20-
 37 5-320, MCA or §20-5-321(1)(c), MCA, the parent or guardian of the child is
 38 responsible for transportation and the child is not an eligible transportee as
 39 defined in §20-10-101, MCA. The District of attendance may discretionarily
 40 provide transportation for a child who is not an eligible transportee pursuant to
 41 §20-10-122, MCA.
- 42 • When a child attends a school outside the child's district of residence under the
 43 provisions of §20-5-321(1)(a) or (1)(b), MCA, the district of residence is
 44 responsible for transportation; and
- 45 • When a child attends a school outside the child's district of residence under the
 46 provisions of §20-5-321(1)(d) or (1)(e), MCA, the district or attendance is

1 responsible for transportation consistent with and subject to the provisions of 20
 2 U.S.C. 6312 (c)(5).
 3

4 (D) The amount, if any, charged for transportation may not exceed the lesser of the average
 5 transportation cost for each student in the child's district of residence for thirty-five (35) cents a
 6 mile. The average expenditures for the district transportation fund for the preceding school fiscal
 7 year must be calculated by dividing the transportation fund expenditures by the October 1
 8 enrollment count for the preceding fiscal year.
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10 Cross References:

11 Policy 1400 Board Meetings
 12 Policy 2158 Family Engagement Policy
 13 Policy 2161 Special Education
 14 Policy 2161R Special Education
 15 Policy 2413 Credit Transfer-Assessment for Placement from Non-Accredited and Non
 16 Public Schools
 17 Policy 3110 Entrance, Placement, and Transfer
 18 Policy 3125 Education of Homeless Children
 19 Policy 3141P Nonresident Student Enrollment Procedures
 20 Policy 3150 Part-Time Attendance
 21 Policy 3210 Equal Education, Nondiscrimination and Sex Equity
 22 Policy 3600 Student Records
 23

24 Legal References:

25 § 1-1-215, MCA Residence – Rules for Determining
 26 § 20-5-314, MCA Reciprocal Attendance Agreement with Adjoining State or Province
 27 § 20-5-320, MCA Attendance with Discretionary Approval
 28 § 20-5-321, MCA Attendance with Mandatory Approval – Tuition and Transportation
 29 § 20-5-322, MCA Residency Determination – Notification – Appeal for Attendance
 30 Agreement
 31 § 20-5-323, MCA Tuition and Transportation Rates
 32 10.10.310B, ARM Out-of-District Attendance Agreements
 33 10.55.712, ARM Class Size Elementary
 34 10.55.713, ARM Teacher Load and Class Size – High School
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36 Policy History:

37 Adopted on: July 1, 2000
 38 Revised on: June 26, 2006
 39 Revised on: April 133, 2015
 40 Revised on: September 11, 2023
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 42 Revised on: September 8, 2025