

1 Great Falls School District

2

3 **STUDENTS**

3655

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5 Student Safety

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7 Definitions

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9 For the purposes of this Policy, the following definitions apply:

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11 “Contact” means any direct, personal interaction that involves communication or engagement of
12 any kind between an adult and a student.

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14 “In school” means physically present in a public school, an offsite instructional setting as defined
15 in §20-1-101, MCA, or a work-based learning setting as provided in §20-7-1510, MCA, for
16 which school credit is granted.

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18 “In transit to a school-sponsored activity” means while a student is being provided transportation
19 by a District employee or private contractor on a bus or other vehicle owned or contracted by the
20 District.

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22 “Momentary absence” means brief, temporary intervals during which a second adult is not
23 physically present. Such absences are short, typically involving situations like stepping away for
24 a bathroom break or addressing an urgent matter.

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26 “School-sponsored activity” means any event, program, or function that is organized, funded, or
27 endorsed by a District.

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29 “Unsupervised” means where one or more students are left unattended and alone in the physical
30 presence of an adult.

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32 It is the policy of the District that no student shall have unsupervised contact with an adult who
33 has not undergone a fingerprint-based national criminal history background check that complies
34 with the requirements of §20-3-323(1)(d), MCA, while the student is in school, at a school-
35 sponsored activity, or in transit to a school sponsored activity. This means that a student may not
36 be left unattended and alone in the physical presence of an adult who has not undergone such a
37 background check, except for in the case of a momentary absence.

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39 When the fingerprint background check results are reviewed by someone other than the Trustees,
40 Superintendent, or designee of the District under §20-3-323(d)(ii), MCA, such individuals,
41 internally or externally, designated by the Trustees to review the results of the background check
42 are limited to individuals authorized by law to receive, review, and share Criminal History
43 Record Information (CHRI) with the District.

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1 Any individual, internally or externally, reviewing the fingerprint background check results must
2 possess a valid authorization from the person being fingerprinted to review and share the results
3 with the District.

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5 The District may designate certain employees and volunteers who will never have unsupervised
6 contact with students and are therefore exempt from the background check requirements.

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8 Cross References:

9 Policy 2600	Work Experience/Internship Program
10 Policy 2600F	GFPS Work Experience/Internship Affiliation Agreement
11 Policy 2600P	Work Experience/Internship Program - Insurance
12 Policy 5122	Fingerprints and Criminal Background Investigations
13 Policy 5122F	Applicant Rights and Consent to Fingerprint
14 Policy 5122P	Federal Background Check, Fingerprint, and Information Handling 15 Procedure

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17 Legal References:

18 §20-1-101, MCA	Definitions
19 §20-3-323, MCA	District Policy and Record of Acts
20 §20-3-324, MCA	Powers and Duties
21 §20-7-1510	Credit for Participating in Work Based Learning Partnerships

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23 Policy History

24 Adopted on:	September 8, 2025
25 Revised on:	January 26, 2026