

Great Falls School District

## NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS

8301

### District Safety

For purposes of this policy, “disaster means the occurrence or imminent threat of damage, injury, or loss of life or property.”

The Board recognizes that safety and health standards should be incorporated into all aspects of the operation of the District. Rules for safety and prevention of accidents will be posted in compliance with the Montana Safety Culture Act and the Montana Safety Act. Injuries and accidents will be reported to the District office.

The Board of Trustees has identified the following local hazards that exist within the boundaries of its school district: fire, earthquake, high winds, tornadoes, intruders, weapons, floods, and man-made disasters. The Board shall adopt a school safety plan or emergency operations plan for such hazards relating to school buildings and facilities, communications systems, and school grounds with the input from the local community and that addresses coordination with the County Interdisciplinary Child Information and School Safety Team provided for in Policy 4410. This plan shall be reviewed annually.

The plan must include the following threat assessment practices:

- The adoption of a threat assessment protocol, outlining policies and procedures for implementation when there is notification of a student threat of harm to others or property; and
- Identified threat assessment teams, composed of key staff, that meet as needed and may include a behavioral threat assessment addressing students in need of academic and behavioral support or interventions.

The Superintendent, or designee, shall design and incorporate drills in its school safety or emergency operations plan to address the above stated hazards. This plan and procedures will be discussed and distributed to each teacher at the beginning of each school year. There will be at least eight (8) disaster drills a year in a school. All teachers will discuss safety drill procedures with their class at the beginning of each school year and will have them posted in a conspicuous place next to the exit door. Drills must be held at different hours of the day or evening to avoid distinction between drills and actual disasters. A record will be kept of all disaster drills.

The Trustees shall review the school safety or emergency operations plan periodically and update the plan as determined necessary by the Trustees based on changing circumstances pertaining to school safety. Once the Trustees have made the certification to the Office of Public Instruction, the Trustees may transfer funds pursuant to Section 2, 20-1-401, MCA to make improvements to school safety and security.

The Superintendent or designee will develop safety and health standards which comply with the Montana Safety Culture Act.

To ensure a safe school setting and to comply with regulations governing schools in Montana, the following safety measures shall be implemented in the District:

- a) Janitorial and other storage areas that contain toxic or hazardous materials must be kept locked between periods of use. Custodial closets, boiler rooms, and other areas where hazardous or poisonous compounds are stored must be inaccessible to students.
- b) All cleaning compounds and other toxic chemicals not stored in the product container or package in which it was obtained must be stored in a labeled container that clearly identifies the product by name.
- c) Chemicals must be stored in appropriate and labeled storage closets, containers, and/or designated refrigerators, as specified by the chemicals' Safety Data Sheet.
- d) The school and school site must be free of objects or conditions which create unreasonable or unnecessary dangers to health or safety.
- e) First aid kits, eye washing stations, and AEDs must be provided and stored in accessible locations that are easily identifiable to staff and trained personnel.
- f) Playground and school yards must be inspected every month by the facility manager or other school personnel, and the inspection must be recorded and records kept on the school site. Inspections must be conducted using a playground safety checklist approved by the DPHHS.
- g) Playground inspection results must be made available for review by the local health authority or the DPHHS upon request.
- h) Periodic maintenance and repair must be performed on playground equipment according to the manufacturer's specifications. Repairs not including the leveling of fall protection material must be documented.
- i) Playground equipment must be maintained in a safe condition and may be removed by the District when safety standards are not met.

#### Legal References:

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| § 20-1-401, MCA            | Disaster Drills to be Conducted Regularly – Districts to Identify Disaster Risks and Adopt School Safety Plan |
| § 20-1-402, MCA            | Number of Disaster Drills Required – Time of Drills to Vary                                                   |
| § 39-40-1501, et seq., MCA | Montana Safety Culture Act                                                                                    |
| 37.111.812, ARM            | Safety Requirements                                                                                           |
| Chapter 348 (2023)         | School Safety Teams                                                                                           |

#### Policy History:

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| Adopted on: | July 1, 2000      |
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