

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 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, the adopted calendar has a minimum number of 720
13 aggregate instructional hours for students in kindergarten through third grade; 1,080 hours for
14 students in fourth through eleventh grade and 1,050 hours for students in twelfth grade.

15
16 The District may satisfy the aggregate number of hours through any combination of onsite,
17 offsite, and online instruction. The Superintendent or designee is directed to ensure that all
18 students are offered access to the complete range of educational programs and services for the
19 education program required by the accreditation standards adopted by the Montana Board of
20 Public Education.

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

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

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

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1 Offsite Instruction

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3 The Board of Trustees authorizes offsite instruction of students in a manner that satisfies the
4 aggregate number of instructional hours outlined in the District's adopted or revised calendar for
5 a school year. Offsite delivery methods shall include a complete range of educational services
6 offered by the District and shall comply with the requirements of applicable statutes. Students
7 completing course work through an offsite instructional setting shall be treated in and have their
8 hours of instruction calculated in the same manner as students attending an onsite instructional
9 setting.

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11 Offsite instruction is available to students:

- 12
13 1. Meeting the residency requirements for that district as provided in 1-1-215, *MCA*;
14 2. Living in the District and eligible for educational services under the Individuals with
15 Disabilities Education Act or under 29 U.S.C. 794;
16 3. Attending school in the District under a mandatory attendance agreement as provided in
17 20-5-321, *MCA*; or
18 4. Attending school in the nearest district offering offsite instruction that agrees to enroll the
19 student when the student's district of residence does not provide offsite instruction in an
20 equivalent course in which the student is enrolled. A course is not equivalent if the course
21 does not provide the same level of advantage on successful completion, including but not
22 limited to dual credit, advanced placement, and career certification. Attendance under this
23 provision is subject to approval of the Trustees.

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25 The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent or designee to permit students to utilize an
26 offsite or online instructional setting ~~at~~ when circumstances require.

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28 Proficiency-Based Learning

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30 The Board of Trustees authorizes proficiency-based learning and ANB calculation in situations
31 when a student demonstrates proficiency in a course area as determined by the Board of Trustees
32 using District assessments consistent with District Policy 1005FE, or other measures approved
33 by the Board of Trustees.

34
35 The Board of Trustees waives the minimum number of instructional hours for students who
36 demonstrate proficiency in a course area using district assessments that include, but are not
37 limited to, the course or class teacher's determination of proficiency as defined by the Board of
38 Trustees. This determination shall be based on a review of the student's completed coursework,
39 participation in course delivery, and other methods applicable to the specific course or class. The
40 Board of Trustees authorizes the use of the proficiency determination process for students who
41 have selected this method of delivery, students for whom the District is unable to document
42 satisfaction of the required minimum aggregate number of hours through the offsite or onsite
43 methods outlined in this policy, or other students whom District personnel determine satisfy the
44 definition of proficient or meeting proficiency.

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

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5 Legal References:

6 Article X, Section 1 Montana Constitution
 7 § 1-1-215, MCA Residence – Rules for Determining
 8 § 20-1-101, MCA Definitions
 9 § 20-1-301, MCA School Fiscal Year
 10 § 20-5-320, MCA Attendance with Discretionary Approval
 11 § 20-5-321, MCA Attendance with Mandatory Approval Tuition and Transportation
 12 § 20-5-322, MCA Residency Determination – Notification – Appeal for Attendance
 13 Agreement
 14 § 20-5-323, MCA Tuition and Transportation Rates
 15 § 20-5-324, MCA Tuition Report and Payment Provisions
 16 § 20-9-311, MCA Calculation of Average Number Belonging
 17 § 20-7-118, MCA Offsite Provision of Educational Services
 18 § 20-7-1601, MCA Transformational Learning – Legislative Intent
 19 ARM 10.55.906(4) High School Credit
 20 29 U.S.C. 794 Nondiscrimination under Federal Grants and Programs
 21 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

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23 Cross References:

24 Policy 1005FE Proficiency-Based Learning
 25 Policy 2100 School Calendar
 26 Policy 2140 Guidance and Counseling
 27 Policy 2168 Distance Learning
 28 Policy 2410 Graduation
 29 Policy 2420 Grading and Progress Reports

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31 Policy History:

32 Adopted on: June 28, 2021
 33 Revised on: December 13, 2021
 34 Revised on:
 35 Revised on: