

Great Falls School District

INSTRUCTION

2158

Family Engagement Policy

The Board of Trustees believes that engaging parents/families in the education process is essential to improved academic success for students. The Board recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the district, parents, families, and other members of the community during the entire time a student attends school. The Board believes that the district must create an environment that is conducive to learning and that strong, comprehensive parent/family involvement is an important component.

This policy shall be made available to all interested individuals upon request and posted on the District's website.

Parent/Family Involvement Goals and Plan

The Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of parent/family involvement, thereby facilitating an environment that encourages collaboration with parents, families, and other members of the community. Therefore, the district will promote the facilitation of parent/family involvement that shall include the following six (6) goals:

- Promote families to actively participate in the life of the school and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
- Promote families and school staff to engage in regular, two-way meaningful communication about student learning.
- Promote families and school staff to continuously collaborate to support student learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
- Empower parents to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated equitably and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
- Encourage families and school staff to be partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs; and
- Encourage families and school staff to collaborate with members of the community to connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

The Board of Trustees, in consultation with parents, teachers, administrators, and students has adopted this District plan for meeting these parent/family involvement goals:

1. Provide activities that will educate parents/families regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their children at all age levels. This will include promoting cooperation between the district and other agencies or school/community groups (such as

- parent-teacher groups, Head Start, etc.) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development.
2. Implement strategies to involve parents/families in the educational process and laws regarding parent/family rights, including:
 - a. Keeping parents/families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation in various District programs.
 - b. Providing access to all District policies, District handbooks, Board and Committee meeting agendas, the District grievance procedure and contact methods for District administrators and Trustees on the District's website.
 - c. Providing access to educational resources and courses of study for parents/families to use together with their children.
 - d. Keeping parents/families informed of the objectives of district educational and activity programs and their child's participation and progress within these programs, and methods to opt out of such programs and instruction consistent with parent/family rights.
 - e. Promoting parent/families and teacher cooperation in homework, attendance, and discipline.
 - f. Providing information about the nature and purpose of student clubs and groups meeting at the school in accordance with Policy 3233 and 3550 and methods to consent to participation or opt out of participation consistent with parent/family rights.
 - g. Providing explanation of rights regarding student name and pronoun use consistent with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Policy 3600.
3. Enabling parents/family members to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For example, parents/family members should be given opportunities to provide input into district policies and volunteer time within the classrooms and school programs.
4. Providing professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent/family involvement strategies.
5. Performing regular evaluations of parent/family involvement at each school and at the district level.
6. Provide access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.
7. If practical, provide information in a language understandable to parents.
8. Provide annual notification of educational opportunities of the District consistent with Montana law in the form of the student handbook, the District policy manual as posted on the District's website, or other accessible format on topics which include:
 - a. The District's options for delivery of personalized instruction to students consistent with Policies 1015FE and 2050, the legislature's findings at § 20-7-1601, MCA, and Article X Section 1 of the Montana Constitution.
 - b. Evaluation, identification, and services provided to students with disabilities consistent with § 20-7-411, MCA, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Policies 2161 and 2162.

- c. Admission of students to kindergarten consistent with § 20-5-101 and § 20-7-117, MCA, and Policy 3110.
- d. Proficiency based learning and other forms of personalized learning including course equivalency waiver consistent with § 20-3-324, MCA and Policies 1005FE, 1015FE, 2050, 2410 and 3121.
- e. Participation in extracurricular activities, including participation by nonpublic and home school students consistent with § 20-5-112, MCA and Policy 3150.
- f. Access to remote instruction, including through the Montana Digital Academy pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 12, non-District sources, and through other school districts as provided in § 20-7-118. MCA, and Policies 2050, 2168.
- g. Out-of-district attendance consistent with Title 20, Chapter 5, Part 3 MCA, and Policies 3110, 3121, and 3141.
- h. Early literacy targeted interventions in accordance with Title 20, MCA.
- i. Part-time enrollment of a student who is otherwise enrolled at a nonpublic or home school consistent with § 20-5-101, MCA and Policy 3150.
- j. Availability of funding to support student access to advanced opportunities, if applicable to a district consistent with § 20-7-1506, MCA and Policy 1015FE.
- k. Career and Technical Education pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 3, including the attainment of industry-recognized credentials and work-based learning, consistent with § 20-7-1510, MCA and Policies 2050, 2410, 2600.
- l. Early college, dual enrollment, and running start opportunities, consistent with § 20-9-706, MCA and Policies 2168 and 2410.
- m. Other opportunities for school-age children through Montana public schools which parents/families and students may rely upon as specified in Policy 2140 which:
 - i. Support the development of a child's full educational potential;
 - ii. Assist in reducing the costs of postsecondary education and workforce preparation; and
 - iii. Foster life success.

Cross References:

Policy 1005FE	Proficiency Based ANB
Policy 1015FE	Personalized Learning Opportunities
Policy 2050	Student Instruction
Policy 2131	Student and Family Privacy Rights
Policy 2140	Guidance and Counseling
Policy 2168	Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered Learning
Policy 2335	Health Enhancement
Policy 2410	High School Graduation Requirements
Policy 2600	Work Experience/Internship Program
Policy 3110	Entrance, Placement and Transfer
Policy 3121	Enrollment and Attendance Records
Policy 3141	Discretionary Nonresident Student Attendance Policy
Policy 3150	Part-Time Attendance
Policy 3233	Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access

1	Policy 3510	Student Sponsored Student Activities
2	Policy 3550	Student Clubs
3	Policy 3600	Student Records
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5	<u>Legal Reference:</u>	
6	Article X, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution	
7	Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act	
8	<u>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</u>	
9	§ 20-3-324, MCA	Powers and Duties
10	§ 20-5-101, MCA	Admittance of Child to School
11	§ 20-5-112, MCA	Participation in Extracurricular Activities
12	§ 20-7-117, MCA	Kindergarten and Preschool Programs
13	§ 20-7-118, MCA	Offsite Provision of Educational Services
14	§ 20-7-411, MCA	<u>Regular Classes Preferred – Obligation to Establish Special</u>
15		<u>Education Program</u>
16	§ 20-7-1506, MCA	Incentives for Creation of Advanced Opportunity Programs
17	§ 20-7-1510, MCA	Credit for Participating in Work-Based Learning Partnerships
18	§ 20-7-1601, MCA	Forms of Personalized Learning
19	§ 20-9-706, MCA	Running Start Program
20	§ 40-6-701, MCA	Fundamental Rights of Parents
21	Title 20, Chapter 3, Part 3, MCA	Board of Trustees
22	Title 20, Chapter 5, Part 3, MCA	Attendance Outside School District
23	Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 3, MCA	Vocational and Technical Education
24	Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 12, MCA	Montana Digital Academy
25	10.55.701(2)(m) ARM	Board of Trustees
26	Chapter 693 (2023)	Increase Parental Involvement in Education
27		
28	<u>Policy History:</u>	
29	Adopted on:	November 24, 2014
30	Revised on:	November 28, 2022
31	Revised on:	August 21, 2023