

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **INSTRUCTION**

2158

4
5 Family Engagement Policy

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

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14 Parent/Family Involvement Goals and Plan

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

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- 21 • Promote families to actively participate in the life of the school and feel welcomed,
22 valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and
23 doing in class.
 - 24 • Promote families and school staff to engage in regular, two-way meaningful
25 communication about student learning.
 - 26 • Promote families and school staff to continuously collaborate to support student learning
27 and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to
28 strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
 - 29 • Empower parents to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students
30 are treated equitably and have access to learning opportunities that will support their
31 success.
 - 32 • Encourage families and school staff to be partners in decisions that affect children and
33 families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs; and
 - 34 • Encourage families and school staff to collaborate with members of the community to
35 connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community
36 services, and civic participation.
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38 The District's plan for meeting these goals is to:

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- 40 1. Provide activities that will educate parents regarding the intellectual and developmental
41 needs of their children at all age levels. This will include promoting cooperation between
42 the district and other agencies or school/community groups (such as parent-teacher
43 groups, Head Start, etc.) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information
44 regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development.
 - 45 2. Implement strategies to involve parents/families in the educational process, including:

- 1 a. Keeping parents/families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging
- 2 participation in various programs.
- 3 b. Providing access to educational resources for parents/families to use together with
- 4 their children.
- 5 c. Keeping parents/families informed of the objectives of district educational programs
- 6 as well as of their child's participation and progress within these programs.
- 7
- 8 3. Enabling families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of
- 9 roles. For example, parents/family members should be given opportunities to provide
- 10 input into district policies and volunteer time within the classrooms and school programs.
- 11 4. Providing professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their
- 12 understanding of effective parent/family involvement strategies.
- 13 5. Performing regular evaluations of parent/family involvement at each school and at the
- 14 district level.
- 15 6. Provide access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational
- 16 curriculum.
- 17 7. If practical, provide information in a language understandable to parents.
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21 Legal Reference:

22 10.55.701(2)(m) ARM Board of Trustees

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24 Policy History:

25 Adopted on: November 24, 2014

26 Revised on: November 28, 2022