

1 Great Falls School District

2
3 **NON-INSTRUCTIONAL OPERATIONS**

8301

4
5 District Safety

6
7 For purposes of this policy, “disaster means the occurrence or imminent threat of damage, injury,
8 or loss of life or property.”

9
10 The Board recognizes that safety and health standards should be incorporated into all aspects of
11 the operation of the District. Rules for safety and prevention of accidents will be posted in
12 compliance with the Montana Safety Culture Act and the Montana Safety Act. Injuries and
13 accidents will be reported to the District office.

14
15 The Board of Trustees has identified the following local hazards that exist within the boundaries
16 of its school district: fire, earthquake, high winds, tornadoes, intruders, weapons, and man-made
17 disasters. The Board shall adopt a school safety plan or emergency operations plan for such
18 hazards relating to school buildings and facilities, communications systems, and school grounds
19 with the input from the local community and that addresses coordination with the County
20 Interdisciplinary Child Information and School Safety Team provided for in Policy 4410. This
21 plan shall be reviewed annually.

22
23 The plan must include the following threat assessment practices:

- 24
- 25 • The adoption of a threat assessment protocol, outlining policies and procedures for
26 implementation when there is notification of a student threat of harm to others or
27 property; and
 - 28 • Identified threat assessment teams, composed of key staff, that meet as needed may
29 include a behavioral threat assessment addressing students in need of academic and
30 behavioral support or interventions.

31
32 The Superintendent, or designee, shall design and incorporate drills in its school safety or
33 emergency operations plan to address the above stated hazards. This plan and procedures will be
34 discussed and distributed to each teacher at the beginning of each school year. There will be at
35 least eight (8) disaster drills a year in a school. All teachers will discuss safety drill procedures
36 with their class at the beginning of each year and will have them posted in a conspicuous place
37 next to the exit door. Drills must be held at different hours of the day or evening to avoid
38 distinction between drills and actual disasters. A record will be kept of all disaster drills.

39
40 The Trustees shall review the school safety or emergency operations plan periodically and
41 update the plan as determined necessary by the Trustees based on changing circumstances
42 pertaining to school safety. Once the Trustees have made the certification to the Office of Public
43 Instruction, the Trustees may transfer funds pursuant to Section 2, 20-1-401, MCA to make
44 improvements to school safety and security.

45

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

3
4 To ensure a safe school setting and to comply with regulations governing schools in Montana,
5 the following safety measures shall be implemented in the District:

- 6
7 a) Janitorial and other storage areas that contain toxic or hazardous materials must be kept
8 locked between periods of use. Custodial closets, boiler rooms, and other areas where
9 hazardous or poisonous compounds are stored must be inaccessible to students.
10 b) All cleaning compounds and other toxic chemicals not stored in the product container or
11 package in which it was obtained must be stored in a labeled container that clearly
12 identifies the product by name.
13 c) Chemicals must be stored as specified by the chemicals' Safety Data Sheet.
14 d) The school and school site must be free of objects or conditions which create
15 unreasonable or unnecessary dangers to health or safety.
16 e) First aid kits and AEDs must be provided and stored in accessible locations that are easily
17 identifiable to staff and trained personnel.
18 f) Playground and school yards must be inspected every month by the facility manager or
19 other school personnel and the inspection must be recorded and records kept on the
20 school site. Inspections must be conducted using a playground safety checklist approved
21 by the DPHHS.
22 g) Playground inspection results must be made available for review by the local health
23 authority or the DPHHS upon request.
24 h) Periodic maintenance and repair must be performed on playground equipment according
25 to the manufacturer's specifications. Repairs not including the leveling of fall protection
26 material, must be documented.
27 i) Playground equipment must be maintained in a safe condition.

28
29 Legal References:

30 § 20-1-401, MCA	Disaster Drills to be Conducted Regularly – Districts to Identify 31 Disaster Risks and Adopt School Safety Plan
32 § 20-1-402, MCA	Number of Disaster Drills Required – Time of Drills to Vary
33 § 39-40-1501, et seq., MCA	Montana Safety Culture Act
34 37.111.812, ARM	Safety Requirements
35 Chapter 348 (2023)	School Safety Teams

36
37 Policy History:

38 Adopted on:	July 1, 2000
39 Revised on:	August 22, 2005
40 Revised on:	June 9, 2014
41 Revised on:	February 8, 2021
42 Revised on:	November 22, 2021
43 Revised on:	August 21, 2023