

1 **2158 INSTRUCTION**

2 Family Engagement Policy

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

9 **Parent/Family Involvement Goals and Plan**

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

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

28 **Facilitation of parent/family may include:**

- 29 1. Activities that will educate parents regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their
30 children at all age levels. This will include promoting cooperation between the district and other
31 agencies or school/community groups (such as parent-teacher groups, Head Start, etc.) to furnish
32 learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and
33 child/adolescent development.
- 34 2. Strategies to involve parents/families in the educational process, including:
 - 35 a. Keeping parents/families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging
36 participation in various programs.
 - 37 b. Providing access to educational resources for parents/families to use together with their
38 children.
 - 39 c. Keeping parents/families informed of the objectives of district educational programs as
40 well as of their child's participation and progress within these programs.

- 1 3. Enabling families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For
- 2 example, parents/family members should be given opportunities to provide input into district
- 3 policies and volunteer time within the classrooms and school programs.
- 4 4. Providing professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their
- 5 understanding of effective parent/family involvement strategies.
- 6 5. Performing evaluations of parent/family involvement at each school and at the district level.
- 7 6. Access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.
- 8 7. Provide information in a language understandable to parents.

9 Legal Reference:

10 10.55.701(2)(m) ARM – Board of Trustees

11 Policy History:

12 Adopted on: November 24, 2014

13 Revised on: