

Policy 2158: Parent and Family Engagement and Educational Involvement

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/09/2022 | **Last Revised Date:** 06/06/2023 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 06/06/2023

Parent/Family Engagement and Involvement in Education

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. Parent/Family involvement in education requires a cooperative effort with roles for the Office of Public Instruction (OPI), the district, parents/families and the community.

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 eliminating barriers that impede parent/family involvement, thereby facilitating an environment that encourages collaboration with parents, families and other members of the community. Therefore, the district will develop and implement a plan to facilitate parent/family involvement that shall include the following six (6) goals:

1. 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;
2. Promote families and school staff to engage in regular, two-way meaningful communication about student learning;
3. 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;
4. 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;
5. 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
6. 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 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:
 - Keeping parents/families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation in various programs.
 - 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.
 - Providing access to educational resources for parents/families to use together with their children.

- Keeping parents/families informed of the objectives of district educational and activity programs their child's participation and progress within these programs and methods to opt out of such programs and instruction consistent with parent/family rights.
 - Promoting parents/families and teacher cooperation in homework, attendance, and discipline.
 - 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.
 - Providing explanation of rights regarding student name and pronoun use consistent with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and Policy 3600.
3. Enable families 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. Provide professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent/family involvement strategies.
 5. Perform 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 Section 20-3-326, MCA, in the form of the student handbook, the District policy manual as posted on the District website, or other accessible format on topics which include:
 - The District's options for delivery of personalized instruction to students consistent with Policies 1015FE and 2050, the legislature's findings at Section 20-7-1601, MCA. and Article X, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution.
 - Evaluation, identification, and services provided to students with disabilities consistent with Section 20-7-411, MCA, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Policies 2161 and 2162.
 - Admission of students to kindergarten consistent with Sections 20-5-101 and 20-7-117, MCA, and Policy 3110.
 - Proficiency based learning and other forms of personalized learning including course equivalency waiver consistent with Section 20-3-324, MCA and Policies 1005FE, 1015FE, 2050, 2410, and 3121.
 - Participation in extracurricular activities, including participation by nonpublic and home school students consistent with Section 20-5-112, MCA, and Policy 3150.
 - 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 Section 20-7-118, MCA, and Policies 2050, 2168, 2170, and 2167;
 - Out-of-district attendance consistent with Title 20, chapter 5, part 3 MCA and Policies 3110, 3121, and 3141.
 - early literacy targeted interventions in accordance with Title 20, MCA and Policy 1010FE.
 - Part-time enrollment of a student who is otherwise enrolled at a nonpublic or home school consistent with Section 20-5-101, MCA and Policy 3150.
 - Availability of funding to support student access to advanced opportunities, if applicable to a district consistent with Section 20-7-1506, MCA and Policy 1015FE;
 - 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 Section 20-7-1510, MCA, and Policies 2050, 2410, and 2600.
 - Early college, dual enrollment, and running start opportunities, consistent with Section 20-9-706, MCA, and District Policy 2168 and 2410.
 - Other opportunities for school-age children through Montana public schools which parents/families and students may rely upon as specified in Policy 2140 which:
 - support the development of a child's full educational potential;
 - assist in reducing the costs of postsecondary education and workforce preparation; and
 - foster life success.

Innovations and Choices in Montana's Public Schools

Forms of Personalized Learning Protected Under 20-7-1601

Advanced Opportunity Act

HB 387, 2019 Session, Rep. Jones, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 15, MCA

Expand Funding for Advanced Opportunity

HB 257, 2023 Session, Rep. Sprunger, Codified at Section 20-7-1506, MCA.

Equal Credit and Funding for Work-Based Learning

Section 8, HB 246, 2021 Session, Rep. Bertoglio, Codified at Section 20-7-1510, MCA

Innovative Education Tax Credits with Pill-over Funding for Advanced Opportunities

HB 408, 2023 Session, Rep. Vinton, Codified at Part 15, Chapter 30, Part 31, MCA

Constitutionally-Compliant Charter Schools

HB 549, 2023 Session, Rep. Anderson, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 6, Part 8, MCA

Align Labor Laws with Work-Based Learning

SB 444, 2023 Session, Senator Small, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 3, MCA

Montana Digital Academy and New Clearinghouse

HB 749, 2023 Session, Rep. Jones, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 12, MCA

Early Literacy Targeted Intervention

HB 352, 2023 Session, Rep. Barker, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 18, MCA

Available upon request of a parent of any child who is below trajectory for third-grade reading proficiency for the child's age or grade level. 125% ANB + \$1,000:

- Classroom-Based Program up to full time ANB at age 4
- Summer Jump Start Program, 1/4 ANB for 120 hours program to take place during the time between the end of one school calendar year and the start of the next school calendar year preceding kindergarten, first-grade, second-grade, and third-grade
- Home-Based Program - \$1,000 per student



Defining and Protecting Proficiency-Based Learning

SB 8, 2023 Session, Senator O'Brien, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 16, MCA

Multi-District Agreements - Fund Transfers

HB 214, 2023 Session, Rep. Bertoglio, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 3, Part 363

Course Waivers and Proficiency Determinations

HB 246, 2021 Session, Rep. Bertoglio, Codified at Section 20-7-1510, MCA. Section 20-3-324, MCA. 10.55.906, ARM

Transformational Learning

HB 351, 2019 Session, Rep. McKamey, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 16, MCA

Open Enrollment

HB 203, 2023 Session, Rep. Bedey, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 5, Part 3, MCA

Continued Opportunities for Graduates Until Age 19

Codified at Section 20-5-101(3), MCA

Funding for Part-Time Enrollment

Codified at Section 20-9-311(4), MCA

Remote and Offsite Instruction

Codified at Section 20-7-118 and Section 20-9-311(10)(11), MCA. Section 20-1-101(14)&(18), MCA - Definitions of Remote and Offsite Instruction

Indian Language Immersion Programs

Codified at Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 14, MCA

Freedom from Seat Time Requirements

Codified at Section 20-1-301, MCA and Section 20-9-311(4), MCA

Section 20-3-363(1)(b), Multidistrict agreements - fund transfers for immersion programs

Incentives for Beginning Teacher Pay

HB 143, 2021 Session, Rep. Jones, Codified at Section 20-3-324, MCA

Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program Enhancements

SB 70, Senator O'Brien, 2023 Session, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 4, Part 5, MCA

Teacher Residency Programs

HB 833, 2023 Session, Rep. Barker, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 4, Part 7, MCA

Targeted Early Literacy Interventions

Transforming the Teaching Profession

Expanded Definition of Pupil Instruction

HB 246, 2021 Session, Rep. Bertoglio, Codified at Section 20-1-101(18), MCA

Section 20-3-363(1)(b), Multidistrict agreements - fund transfers for immersion programs

School Health Trust Incentives

HB 332, 2023 Session, Rep. Bedey, Codified at Section 20-3-366, MCA

Alternative Teacher Credentialing

SB 373, 2023 Session, Senator Salomon, Codified at Title 20, Chapter 4, Part 1, MCA

Montana Code Annotated References

20-3-324	Powers and duties
20-3-326	Information On Educational Opportunities -- Duties Of Trustees
20-5-101	Admittance of child to school
20-5-112	Participation in extracurricular activities
20-5-314	Reciprocal attendance agreement with adjoining state or province
20-5-320	Attendance with discretionary approval
20-5-321	Attendance with mandatory approval – tuition and transportation
20-5-322	Residency determination – notification – appeal for attendance agreement
20-7-117	Kindergarten and preschool programs
20-7-118	Offsite Provision of Educational Services
20-7-1510	Credit for participating in work based learning partnerships
20-7-1601	Transformational Learning - Legislative Intent
20-9-706	Running start program
40-6-701	Interference with fundamental parental rights restricted
40-6-702	Fundamental Parental Rights
40-6-703	Increase parental involvement in education
Title 20, Chapter 7, part 12	Montana digital academy
Title 20, chapter 7, part 3	Vocational and Technical Education

Administrative Rules of Montana References

10.55.601	Accreditation Standards: Procedures
10.55.701	Board of Trustees
10.55.722	Family and Community Engagement
10.55.723	Integrated Strategic Action Plan

United States Code References

20 U.S.C. § 1232g, et seq.	Family Education Rights and Privacy Act
20 USC 6318	Parent and Family Engagement

Cross References

1005FE	Proficiency-Based ANB
1015FE	Personalized Learning Opportunities
1700	Uniform Complaint Procedure
2050	Innovative Student Instruction
2132	Student and Family Privacy Rights
2140	Guidance and Counseling
2160	Title I Parent Involvement
2160-P(1)	Title I Parent Involvement - Title I - Equivalency/Comparability
2168	Remote Instruction from Non-District Sources
2170	Digital Academy Classes
2170-P(1)	Digital Academy Classes
2335	Health Enhancement

Cross References

2335-NF(1)

2335-NF(2)

2410

2410-P(1)

2410-P(2)

2600

2600-P(1)

2600-NF(1)

3110

3110-NF(1)

3120

3121

3121-P(1)

3141

3141-F(1)

3150

3233

3305

3310

3310-P(1)

3310-P(2)

3310-F(1)

3410

3410-NF(1)

3413

3413-F(1)

3413-F(2)

3431

3431-NF(1)

3510

3550

3550-NF(1)

3600

3600-P(1)

3600-NF(1)

3600-F(1)

Description[Health Enhancement - Annual Notice](#)[Health Enhancement - Special Notice](#)[High School Graduation Requirements](#)[High School Graduation Requirements](#)[High School Graduation Requirements - Graduate Profile](#)[Work Based Learning](#)[Work Based Learning - Insurance](#)[Work Based Learning - Affiliation Agreement](#)[Entrance, Placement, and Transfer](#)[Entrance, Placement, and Transfer - Education Authorization Affidavit](#)[Compulsory Attendance](#)[Enrollment and Attendance Records](#)[Enrollment and Attendance Records](#)[Nonresident Student Enrollment](#)[Nonresident Student Enrollment - Application Form](#)[Part-Time Enrollment](#)[Student Use of Buildings](#)[Seclusion and Restraint](#)[Student Discipline](#)[Student Discipline - Student Risk Assessments](#)[Student Discipline - Academic Honesty and Responsible Use of Resources](#)[Student Discipline - Discipline of Students with Disabilities](#)[Student Health](#)[Student Health](#)[Student Immunization](#)[Student Immunization - Medical Exemptions](#)[Student Immunization - Religious Exemptions](#)[Emergency Treatment](#)[Emergency Treatment - Accident Report](#)[School-Sponsored Activities](#)[Student Clubs](#)[Student Clubs - School District Student Club Application](#)[Student Records](#)[Student Records - Maintenance of School Student Records](#)[Student Records - Notification to Parents and Students of Rights Concerning a Student's School Records](#)[Student Records - Student Directory Information Notification](#)