

Big Sky School District Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan

Date of Original Adoption August 14th, 2020

Date Plan was Last Revised: June 15th 2021

Next Regularly Scheduled Month for Consideration (At least quarterly): July 13, 2021,
August 12th, 2021

Dates Reviewed: July 13th, August 12th, August 24th 2023

March 2020 - June 2021

1. The Big Sky School District was ordered to close to in person instruction on March 15, 2020, under an executive order issued by then-Governor Bullock. Districts were provided a two-week period of time during which they could remain fully closed to instruction of any kind while developing a plan for remote instruction required by the Governor.
 - a. Although our district was authorized to remain closed, we quickly mobilized and began remote instruction during the timeframe when we were authorized to remain closed. On March 18th teachers launched virtual / distance learning for the K-12; materials were ready for pick up, google classrooms with meet were established, all student k-12 went home with a device on March 13th and synchronous learning began at 830 a.m. on March 18th. Thereafter, our district continued pursuant to a reopening plan approved by the Governor beginning March 30, 2020.
2. On April 22, 2020, then-Governor Bullock lifted his Stay at Home Order, and Announced a Plan to Begin Phased Reopening of Montana. As part of that plan, effective May 7, 2020, all schools were provided the option to return to in-classroom teaching at the discretion of local school boards.
 - a. Our school district finished the 2020-21 school year through remote instruction. During the 2020-21 school year, our means of operation have included:
 - i. In person
 - ii. Hybrid – 50% of students attended in person instruction and 50% of students attended synchronous instruction through technology. The student cohorts rotated on a daily basis.
 - iii. Offsite – Students who chose to participated in offsite, synchronous instruction with their classmates in a 100% virtual environment.
3. Our district developed a plan for reopening to in person instruction, with contingencies, and we implemented that plan for the 2020-21 school year. The reopening plan, details regarding which are provided below, included adoption of various model policies provided by the Montana School Boards Association under its 1900 Series, including model policies aligned with CDC guidance regarding mitigation strategies to limit exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 in school settings.

4. Our district is finishing the 2020-21 school year strong, having provided high quality learning opportunities to the students in our community in safe and effective learning environments.
5. We embraced a fundamental principle of providing extensive transparency to our community throughout the above timeframe. We publicly noticed, held meetings regarding, and provided extensive opportunities for our community to provide us with feedback regarding the School District's plans and we carefully considered such feedback in developing and refining the School District's plans throughout the last 14-15 months.

Safe Return to Schools and Continuity of Services Plan Contents:

March 2020-June 2021

Part I: Documentation of Meaningful Consultation in Developing and Refining the School District's plan from March 2020 Through June 2021:

We noticed, held, and invited public comment on our evolving plans for a safe return to school and continuity of services on the following dates since March 2020:

1. March 15th, 2020
2. March 17th, 2020
3. April 3rd, 2020
4. April 24th, 2020
5. May 6th, 2020
6. May 19th, 2020
7. June 16th, 2020
8. July 21st, 2020
9. July 30th, 2020
10. August 6th, 2020
11. August 14th, 2020
12. August 20th, 2020
13. August 26th, 2020
14. September 2nd, 2020
15. September 15th, 2020
16. September 24th, 2020
17. October 20th, 2020
18. October 27th, 2020
19. November 17th, 2020
20. December 3rd, 2020
21. December 15th, 2020
22. January 5th, 2021
23. January 12th, 2021
24. January 19th, 2021
25. February 16th, 2021
26. March 16th, 2021
27. April 6th, 2021

- 28. May 5th, 2021
- 29. May 18th, 2021
- 30. June 15th, 2021
- 31. July 13th, 2021
- 32. July 30th, 2021
- 33. August 12th, 2021
- 34. August 24th, 2021

Our invitation for public input included a general opportunity for the public to provide input and was provided to everyone interested, including:

1. Students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; and
2. Civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, and other underserved students.

Part II: Contents of The School District's plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services:

1. A description of how the district will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff:

Following the lifting of the Stay-at-Home Order and subsequent reopening of the state on April 22, 2020, Big Sky School District utilized the Montana Public Education Center *Roadmap for Safely Reopening Montana's Public Schools Using Emergency School District Policies* and accompanying MTSBA Model Emergency Policies. Utilizing these resources supported our district's continued service to students with transparency and accountability while ensuring the operations of the school district reflected the circumstances in our community.

The policies ensured our Board of Trustees and school leaders honored the following priorities: quality instruction to students; a healthy and safe setting for students, staff, and the community; needed support of teachers and staff; and responsible financial and operational procedures. The policies provided an actionable plan for completing the 2020-2021 school fiscal year in a manner that met these priorities and secured district funding while providing an operational platform for considering long term innovations in the delivery of education services.

Big Sky School District implemented policy options that facilitated collaboration between the Board of Trustees, administrative team, employees, parents, students, health officials, and community as we established protocols aligned with CDC guidance addressing how instruction was to be delivered to students; how gatherings and events

would take place on school property; how the health and safety of staff and students would be protected and preserved while schools were open; and how financial and operational functions of the school district would continue during the period of public health emergency.

Big Sky School District reviewed, considered, and addressed numerous areas of operation in our reopening process. On the topic of school district policy and procedures, the district considered emergency policies and procedures, adoption and amendment of policies, suspension of policies, and administrative procedures. To support students' academic, mental, social and emotional success, the district considered alternative grading, counseling, extended school year, student instruction proficiency determinations and declarations, support for particularly vulnerable students, transportation services, access to internet for students, food preparation and service, summer school and additional student instruction resources. To ensure the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff, the district considered cleaning and disinfection, community use of facilities, county board of health orders, diagnosis and confidentiality, hand washing and related hygiene protocols, telework, school closure orders, stay at home orders, symptom monitoring and isolation, travel quarantines, visitors, volunteers, vulnerable individuals, masks and personal protective equipment, and physical distancing.

Following the Roadmap for Safely Reopening Montana's Public Schools Using Emergency School District Policies ensured Big Sky School District has remained in compliance with guidance and best practices provided by federal, state, or local health officials. Our school district has continued to adapt and adjust our policies as new and updated guidance and best practices have become available.

Further, the policies provide options for consideration through input from our board of trustees, administrative team, employees, parents, students health officials, and community as collaborative partners as we have worked our way through ever evolving changes due to the pandemic. By considering all possible perspectives and factors when making the decisions to adopt or adjust a policy, or to implement a policy, we focused on the health and safety of our students, staff, and community for delivery of learning and services to our students. The policies have enabled us to adjust our procedures and practices during different phases in compliance with guidance and best practices provided by federal, state, and local agencies.

Big Sky School District will continue to follow the policies noted below while engaging in a quarterly reevaluation process to continue to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our students, teachers, staff, and community through 2024.

2. The extent to which the district has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

Topic	School District Policy Reference	Description of Policy (All referenced polices can be found at the end of this document.)	Policy Adopted and Revised Date(s)
Universal and correct wearing of masks.	1905	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations requiring face coverings as personal protective equipment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8/24/2020 2. 5/5/2021 3. 5/18/2021 4. 7/30/2021 5. 8/24/2021
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).	1905; 1905P	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding physical distancing by requiring students, staff, volunteers, and visitors will maintain a three-foot distance between themselves and their colleagues and peers throughout the school day inside any school building, on school provided transportation, and on school property before and after school. Staff members will arrange classrooms and restructure courses, transportation services, and food service to meet this standard.</p> <p>1905P: The administrative team of the School District has adopted these procedures regarding symptoms of illness, physical distancing and work areas, physical barriers and guides, and ventilation in accordance with Policy 1310 in order to implement Policy 1905</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 08/24/2020 2. 8/24/2021

		during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure a safe and healthy work and instructional setting. These procedures were developed in accordance with the latest available guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and in coordination with applicable state, tribal, and local health officials. These procedures supplement Policy 1905.	
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.	1905; 1905P	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding healthy hand hygiene behavior and symptoms of illness.</p> <p>1905P: The administrative team of the School District has adopted these procedures regarding personnel cleaning and disinfecting, symptoms of illness, and water systems in accordance with Policy 1310 in order to implement Policy 1905 during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure a safe and healthy work and instructional setting. These procedures were developed in accordance with the latest available guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and in coordination with applicable state, tribal, and local health officials. These procedures supplement Policy 1905.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 08/24/2020 2. 8/24/2021
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.	1905; 1905P	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 08/24/2020 2. 8/24/2021

		<p>regarding symptoms of illness, cleaning and disinfecting, temperature screening, vulnerable individuals, food preparation and meal service, and transportation services.</p> <p>1905P: The administrative team of the School District has adopted these procedures regarding personnel cleaning and disinfecting, symptoms of illness, and ventilation in accordance with Policy 1310 in order to implement Policy 1905 during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure a safe and healthy work and instructional setting. These procedures were developed in accordance with the latest available guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and in coordination with applicable state, tribal, and local health officials. These procedures supplement Policy 1905.</p>	
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.	1905; 3417	<p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding symptoms of illness, temperature screening, public awareness, and confidentiality.</p> <p>3417: In all proceedings related to this policy, the District will respect a student’s right to privacy. Although the District is required to provide educational services to all school-age children who reside within its boundaries, it may deny attendance at school to any child diagnosed as having a communicable disease that could make a child’s attendance harmful to the welfare of other students. The District will rely on advice of the public health and medical communities in assessing the risk of transmission of various communicable diseases to determine how best to protect the health of both students and staff. The District will manage common communicable diseases in accordance with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services guidelines and communicable diseases control rules.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 08/24/2020 2. 8/24/2021

		The District may temporarily exclude from school attendance a student who exhibits symptoms of a communicable disease that is readily transmitted in a school setting. The District may notify parents of other children attending a school that their children have been exposed to a communicable disease without identifying the particular student who has the disease.	
Diagnostic and screening testing.	1905	1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations regarding symptoms of illness, and temperature screening.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 08/24/2020 2. 8/24/2021
Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities	3413	<p>Please note that House Bill 702 passed the 2021 Legislature and was signed into law effective May 14, 2021. New Section 1 of that law provides that it is an unlawful discriminatory practice for a governmental entity to refuse, withhold from, or deny to a person any local or state services, goods, facilities, advantages, privileges, licensing, educational opportunities, health care access, or employment opportunities based on the person's vaccination status. The law also provides it is unlawful for an employer to refuse employment to a person, to bar a person from employment, or to discriminate against a person in compensation or in a term, condition, or privilege of employment based on the person's vaccination status. Finally, House Bill 702 provides it is unlawful for a public accommodation to exclude, limit, segregate, refuse to serve, or otherwise discriminate against a person based on the person's vaccination status.</p> <p>3413: Upon initial enrollment, an immunization status form shall be completed by the student's parent or guardian. The certificate shall be made a part of the student's permanent record.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 06/15/2021

<p>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.</p>	<p>1908; 2162; 2162P</p>	<p>1908: The Board of Trustees authorizes the supervising teacher or district administrator to provide Policy 1908F to families requesting to opt-out of onsite instruction at the school facility for the duration of the declared public health emergency. Students of families opting out of onsite instruction at the school facility shall receive offsite, online, and proficiency-based instruction, or any combination of the foregoing at the discretion of the School District in accordance with District Policy 1906. Students of families opting out of onsite delivery shall be treated the same as students instructed at the school facility for purposes of grading, discipline, and other educational rights.</p> <p>2162: It is the intent of the District to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services. For those students who need or are believed to need special instruction and/or related services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the District shall establish and implement a system of procedural safeguards.</p> <p>2162P: If the parent or legal guardian of a student who qualifies under Section 504 for special instruction or related services disagrees with a decision of the District with respect to: (1) the identification of the child as qualifying for Section 504; (2) the District's evaluation of the child; and/or (3) the educational placement of the child, the parents of the student are entitled to certain procedural safeguards. The student shall remain in his/her current placement until the matter has been resolved through the process set in the policy.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 08/24/2020 2. 07/30/2021 3. 08/24/2021
<p>Coordination with State and local health officials.</p>	<p>1900; 1905; 1907; 3417</p>	<p>1900: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Trustees has found it necessary to adopt temporary policies related to emergency school closures, the ongoing provision of educational services to students, meetings of the Board, gatherings on school property, health and safety of students, staff and community members, human resource matters and budgetary matters. To ensure clarity and transparency, the board has organized all emergency school policies into a temporary chapter. School District Policies Numbered 1900-1999 are intended to govern during any emergency related to COVID-19</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8/24/2020 2. 8/24/2021

		<p>declared by the President, Congress, Montana Legislature, Governor, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, County Health Department or the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>1905: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with Policy 1909, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials.</p> <p>1907: The Board of Trustees is authorized to declare that a state of emergency exists within the community. A declaration issued by the Board of Trustees is distinct from any declaration in effect or previously issued by local, state or federal authorities.</p> <p>3417: The District will manage common communicable diseases in accordance with Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services guidelines and communicable diseases control rules. When information is received by a staff member or a volunteer that a student is afflicted with a serious communicable disease, the staff member or volunteer will promptly notify a school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board to determine appropriate measures to be taken to protect student and staff health and safety. A school nurse or other responsible person designated by the Board, after consultation with and on advice of public health officials, will determine which additional staff members, if any, have need to know of the affected student's condition.</p>	
How the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs	1906; 1906P; 2050	1906: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy to govern during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure the delivery of education services to students onsite at the school, offsite at other locations using available resources including but not limited to online methods. The supervising teacher, principal,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 8/24/2020 2. 7/30/2021 3. 8/24/2021

<p>and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.</p>		<p>superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement this policy. The Board of Trustees may revise the school calendar to adjust the completion of the school year for particular grade levels and groups once students have satisfied the required number of applicable aggregate hours.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees authorizes offsite and online instruction of students in a manner that satisfies the aggregate number of instructional hours outlined in the School District's adopted or revised calendar for a school year affected by a public health emergency. Offsite and online delivery methods shall include a complete range of educational services offered by the School District and shall comply with the requirements of applicable statutes. Students completing course work through an offsite or online instructional setting shall be treated in and have their hours of instruction calculated in the same manner as students attending an onsite institutional setting.</p> <p>Students shall receive services in accordance with the applicable Individualized Education Plan or Section 504 Plan based on methods and locations agreed upon and documented by the applicable team to meet the student's needs and goals. Students shall have access to regular school counseling services whether their instruction is provided in an onsite, offsite or online setting. Staff shall promptly report any suspected student distress or concern to their supervisor for review and referral. Students receiving instruction in an offsite setting are governed by the staff obligation to report suspected child abuse or neglect. This policy in no way limits or adjusts the School District's obligations to homeless students or students in foster care. Applicable District policies serving these students, or this population of students remain in full effect.</p> <p>1906P: Proficiency or satisfying aggregate hours of instruction can be achieved through an on-site, off-site, or blended learning model as outlined in Policy 1906. Best practices will assist districts in facilitating quality learning for each student regardless of background or circumstance. Best practices include but are not limited to, planning and communication, clear expectations, differentiated instruction and learning models, and flexible demonstrations of learning.</p>	
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		<p>2050: The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy to ensure the delivery of education services to students onsite at the school, offsite at other locations using available resources. The District administration or designated personnel are authorized to implement this policy</p>	
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June 2021

Part III – Updated Compliance for the District’s Previously Adopted Plan for the Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services:

Section 2001(i)(3) of the ARP Act states that a school district that developed a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services prior to the date of enactment of the ARP Act will be deemed to have met the requirement to develop a plan under section 2001(i)(1) as long as the plan meets the statutory requirements (*i.e.*, is publicly available on the LEA’s website and was developed after the LEA sought and took into account public comment).

The School District’s plan meets the requirements of Section 2001(i)(1) and (i)(2) of the ARP Act. The School District’s plan is available on our website and, as noted above, was developed through a process that included extensive public comment. Further, we have, as part of the organization of the School District’s plan for purposes of the ARP Act, revised the School District’s plan at a meeting held on June 15, 2021 that included not just a notice of opportunity for public input but which specifically invited meaningful consultation with and input from:

1. Students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; and
2. Tribes; civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

We have considered the input of all affected parties and have carefully deliberated regarding the best possible means by which our district can provide safe effective learning environments for each of our students.

June 2021 - September 30, 2024

Part IV – Schedule for Future Review and Updates:

Consideration of this Safe Return to Schools and Continuity of Services Plan shall be added as a standing agenda item on each regular and special meeting of the board of trustees throughout the 2021-24 school years. The agenda item

shall, at a minimum, include notice of any changes to the plan recommended by the administration with an invitation for input, notice of opportunity for public input, and consultation with:

1. Students; families; school and district administrators (including special education administrators); teachers, principals, school leaders, other educators, school staff, and their unions; and
2. Tribes; civil rights organizations (including disability rights organizations); stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learners, children experiencing homelessness, children in foster care, migratory students, children who are incarcerated, and other underserved students.

Appendix – Attach and/or provide a website URL for the school district’s adopted 1900 policies in their entirety.

[MT-PEC](#) *A Roadmap for Safely Reopening Montana’s Public Schools Using Emergency School District Policies.*

Big Sky SCHOOL DISTRICT
1900 SERIES
COVID-19 EMERGENCY POLICIES

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1911	School District Budget Adoption and Amendment and Audit
1912	School District Elections During Emergency

1 **Big Sky School District**

2
3 COVID-19 Emergency Policies

1900

4
5 The board of trustees and its staff are operating under unusual, even unprecedented
6 circumstances by virtue of the declaration of a statewide emergency by the Governor and the
7 executive orders related to school closure to address concerns from the COVID-19 Virus and/or
8 the declaration of an unforeseen emergency (community disaster) made by the Board of
9 Trustees. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Trustees has found it necessary to
10 adopt temporary policies related to emergency school closures, the ongoing provision of
11 educational services to students, meetings of the Board, gatherings on school property, health
12 and safety of students, staff and community members, human resource matters and budgetary
13 matters. To ensure clarity and transparency, the board has organized all emergency school
14 policies into a temporary chapter. The Board has also included this introductory section as a
15 heading for each policy to ensure understanding of the purpose and duration of each policy
16 adopted pursuant to this chapter.

17
18 Purpose(s) of Policies

- 19
20 1. Ensuring that locally-elected trustees charged with the supervision and control of their
21 local public schools, in collaboration with their staff leadership teams, make decisions
22 that are in the best interests of students, staff and the community served.
23 2. Ensuring measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff and community
24 members.
25 3. Addressing issues relating to student instruction and family engagement.
26 4. Addressing barriers to learning presented by distance.
27 5. Improvement of instruction in on-site, offsite, and/or on-line settings
28 6. Ensuring continuity of employment of school district staff and/or continuity of services
29 provided by contract transportation providers.
30 7. Ensuring accountability to families with children.

31
32 Term of COVID-19 Emergency Measures Policies

33
34 School District Policies Numbered 1900-1999 are intended to govern during any emergency
35 related to COVID-19 declared by the President, Congress, Montana Legislature, Governor,
36 Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, County Health Department or the
37 Board of Trustees. The term of School District Policies Numbered 1900-1999 shall run until
38 terminated by a vote of the board of trustees.

39
40 Cross Reference: Policy 2221 – 2221P – School Closure
41 Policy 1400 – Board Meetings
42 Policy 1310 – Policy and Procedure
43 Policy 1420 – Meeting Procedure

44
45 Legal Reference: Executive Orders – 2-2020 and 3-2020 – Office of the Governor and
46 accompanying Directives

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Section 20-9-801-806, MCA – Emergency School Closure
Section 50-1-202-204, MCA – Public Health Laws
Section 10-3-104, MCA – General Authority of Governor
Article X, section 8 – Montana Constitution

Policy History:
Adopted on: 8/20/2020
Reviewed on:
Revised on:
Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2
3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1901

4
5 Emergency Policy and Procedures

6
7 Applicability of Emergency Policy Series

8
9 During a state of emergency declared by the Board of Trustees or other local, state or federal agency,
10 official, or legislative body, the provisions in the emergency policies adopted by the Board of Trustees as
11 codified at 1900-1999 in the district policy manual will govern in the event of any conflict or
12 inconsistency between an emergency policy and other provision in the district policy manual. All other
13 aspects of the district policy manual not affected by the provisions in the emergency policy series
14 continue to be in full effect.

15
16 Legal References

17
18 In the absence of a legal reference on an emergency policy adopted by the Board of Trustees, the policy is
19 specifically based on the Board of Trustees authority to supervise and control the schools within the
20 District in accordance with Article X, section 8 of the Montana Constitution.

21
22 Adoption and Amendment of Policies

23
24 New or revised policies that are required or have required language changes based on State or Federal law
25 or directive, required by administrative rule, or are required due to a declaration of emergency issued by
26 the Board of Trustees or other state or federal agency official or legislative body may be adopted after the
27 first (1st) reading if notice has been given through the board agenda provided to the trustees and public.
28 All new or amended policies adopted as part of the emergency policy series shall become effective
29 immediately upon adoption; unless a specific effective date is stated in the motion for adoption.

30
31 Suspension of Policies

32
33 Under circumstances that require waiver of a policy, the policy may be suspended by a majority vote of
34 the trustees present. To suspend a policy, however, all trustees must have received written notice of the
35 meeting, which includes the proposal to suspend a policy and an explanation of the purpose of such
36 proposed suspension.

37
38 Administrative Procedures

39
40 The Superintendent shall develop such administrative procedures as are necessary to ensure consistent
41 implementation of policies adopted by the Board of Trustees.

42
43
44 Legal References: § 20-3-323, MCA District policy and record of acts
45 10.55.701, ARM Board of Trustees
46 Title 20, Chapter 9 Part 8, MCA

47 Policy History:

48 Adopted on: 8/20/2020

49 Reviewed on:

50 Revised on:

51 Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2
3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1903F

4
5 School Event and Facility Notice

6
7 The Board of Trustees has adopted the following notice to be posted at the entrance to school
8 buildings and facilities that are holding an event or allowing visitors as authorized by the Board
9 of Trustees in accordance with Policy 1903.

10
11 SCHOOL EVENT AND FACILITY NOTICE

12
13 Big Sky School District has taken the precautionary measures adopted by the Board of
14 Trustees and directed by the **Gallatin County Health Department** to protect against the
15 possible spread of COVID-19 and related illnesses. These measures include but are not
16 limited to cleaning and disinfecting protocols, and the use of personal protective
17 equipment. **FACE COVERINGS ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL STAFF, STUDENTS**
18 **AND VISITORS TO THE BIG SKY SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES.** There are
19 no assurances these measures will prevent the spread of COVID-19 or related illnesses at
20 this event or at this facility. By voluntarily entering this event or facility, attendees are
21 acknowledging their specific awareness and knowledge that there are inherent risks of
22 exposure at public gatherings and public facilities. These inherent risks that attendees
23 specifically acknowledge include but are not limited to: injury; illness; hospitalization,
24 chronic health issues arising out of COVID-19, quarantines of an unknown duration to be
25 determined by governing authorities and death. Attendees acknowledge vulnerable
26 individuals as defined by the Centers for Disease Control are at greater risk of serious
27 complications from exposure. Attendees are advised to comply with physical distancing
28 limits consisting of a minimum of 3 feet of distance from others at all times and to use
29 personal hand sanitizer before, during and after an event. Attendees confirm that they
30 have reviewed, thoroughly understand and agree to comply with all guidance. All School
31 District Policies are in effect when attending this school event or otherwise accessing this
32 facility. Any negligence arising out of your access to this facility or attendance at a
33 school event shall be attributed to you as comparative negligence within the meaning of
34 Section 27-1-702, MCA.

35
36 OPTIONAL: To accommodate those that may not want to risk exposure during a public
37 event, the School District is broadcasting the event at the School District You Tube
38 Channel. Spectators may visit this site to watch the event without visiting the school
39 facility.

40
41 Policy History:

42 Adopted on: 8/20/2020

43 Reviewed on: 7/30/2021

44 Revised on: 8/24/2021

45 Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2
3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1903

4
5 School District Meetings, Gatherings, Events, and Visitors

6
7 The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy to govern during the term of
8 the declared public health emergency to ensure individuals present at a school facility for events
9 or other operationally related reasons honor safety protocols. The supervising teacher, principal,
10 superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement this policy in coordination
11 with state and local health officials.
12

13
14 School District Events

15
16 The Board of Trustees authorize School District physical meetings, gatherings, and events with
17 attendees following protocols identified in Policy 1905.
18

19 All attendees at physical meetings, gatherings, and events held on school property in an outdoor
20 area including the stadium, field, or other open area designated by the Board of Trustees shall be
21 required to honor the applicable health and safety protocols outlined in District Policy 1905
22 including, but not limited to, physical distancing when possible.
23

24 All attendees at a meeting, gathering, or event authorized by the Board of Trustees held inside
25 the school facility are required to honor the health and safety protocols outlined in District Policy
26 1905.
27

28
29 Volunteers

30
31 Volunteers utilized by the School District that have been approved in accordance with District
32 Policy 5430 may enter the school building in accordance with the protocols outlined in District
33 Policy 1905.
34

35
36 Enforcement

37
38 Visitors to any school building or any attendee at a meeting, gathering, or event authorized by
39 the Board of Trustees in accordance with this policy who fail to honor the requirements of
40 District Policy or the directives of School District officials shall be asked to correct their conduct
41 or leave the meeting, gathering, or event in accordance District Policy 4315.
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Cross Reference: Policy 1901 – School District Policy and Procedures
Policy 1905 – Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety
Policy 1400 – Board Meetings
Policy 5430 – Volunteers
Policy 4301 – Visitors to Schools
Policy 4332 – Conduct on School Property
Policy 4315 – Visitor and Spectator Conduct
Policy 4330 – Community Use of School Facilities

Policy History:
Adopted on: 8/20/2020
Reviewed on: 7/30/2021
Revised on: 8/24/2021
Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2
3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1904

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5
6 Use of Transportation Funds During Periods of Emergency Declaration

7
8 Pursuant to guidance issued from the Office of Public Instruction, the Board of Trustees
9 authorizes the following expenditures of its FY21 budgeted transportation funds that are in
10 addition to traditionally authorized expenditures. The expenditures below are, as noted in OPI
11 guidance, transportation services which provide instructional services to students.

- 12
13 •
- 14 • Transportation of food and meals used in nutritional programs.
 - 15 • Purchase of equipment to ensure safety in food transportation.
 - 16 • Providing accessibility to student services for remote learning.
 - 17 • Providing instructional materials to students, including but not limited to internet service
18 adequate to allow students to effectively access curriculum during periods of school
19 closure.
 - 20 • Cost of instructional materials, supplies, and software licenses.
 - 21 • Costs of technological equipment needed for offsite instruction/correspondence study
22 purchased by the school district and loaned to students without such equipment.
 - 23 • Cost of correspondence study.
 - 24 • Costs of providing services to students with an IEP or a plan adopted pursuant to section
25 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act.
 - 26 • Costs of time off or repurposed time for staff normally paid from the transportation fund.
 - 27 • Costs to contractors of transportation services.
- 28

29 Cost Guidelines

30
31 The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to exercise his/her professional judgment
32 and discretion as to the necessity, quality and amount of all expenses referenced below.

33 Aggregate costs of items below are to remain within the budget limits adopted by the board of
34 trustees for the FY21 transportation budget, including any budget amendments adopted by the
35 board of trustees prior to the completion of FY21.

- 36
- 37 • Any costs consistent with costs under normal operation, including costs referenced in any
38 contract to which the district is a party.
 - 39 • Actual costs of delivering meals to students at locations authorized by any and all waivers
40 of regular rules for school nutrition programs that have been adopted by the United States
41 Department of Agriculture or the Office of Public Instruction.
 - 42 • Any costs consistent with and necessary to comply with an IEP or section 504 plan.
 - 43 • Actual costs of equipment, software and service necessary to bridge digital divides or
44 provide a quality learning environment for students, including:
- 45
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- 3
- 4 ○ Equipment necessary to provide wi-fi in a student’s home, including any
- 5 equipment qualifying for discount under the federal E-Rate program.
- 6 ○ Equipment necessary to allow students to effectively participate in offsite
- 7 instruction with an emphasis on ensuring opportunities for real time interactions,
- 8 collaboration, and effective engagement in the learning process by students.
- 9 ▪ Equipment purchased under this section may include any combination
- 10 deemed necessary and appropriate by the Superintendent, including but
- 11 not limited to mobile devices, tablets and laptops.
- 12 ▪ Equipment purchased under this section shall become and remain the
- 13 property of the District and shall be provided to students through a
- 14 loan/checkout service developed by the Superintendent.
- 15 ○ Software to ensure a safe and appropriate online learning experience by students
- 16 of the district.
- 17 ○ Internet service at an adequate bandwidth to ensure full and effective use of
- 18 instruction delivery and interaction methods employed by the district as part of its
- 19 offsite learning program.
- 20 ▪ If there are multiple internet service providers in the community, the board
- 21 authorizes the Superintendent to choose either a single provider or to
- 22 allocate/rotate selection from among all providers in the community
- 23 meeting minimum bandwidth and other safety and quality standards
- 24 deemed necessary and appropriate by the Superintendent.
- 25
- 26

27 Cross Reference: Policy 3612 – District-Provided Access to Electronic Information,
28 Services, and Networks
29 Policy 3612P - District-Provided Access to Electronic Information,
30 Services, and Networks Procedure
31 Policy 3612F – Internet Access Agreement
32 Policy 3650 – Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act
33 Policy 3650F – Montana Model Data Privacy Agreement
34 Policy 2168.- Distance Learning
35 Policy 2170 – Montana Digital Academy
36 Policy 2170P – Montana Digital Academy Procedures
37

38 Legal Reference: Section 20-10-101(5), MCA – Transportation
39

40 Policy History:

41 Adopted on: 8/20/2020

42 Reviewed on:

43 Revised on:

44 Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2
3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1905P

4
5 Administrative Procedures for Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety

6
7 The administrative team of the School District has adopted these procedures in accordance with
8 Policy 1310 in order to implement Policy 1905 during the term of the declared public health
9 emergency to ensure a safe and healthy work and instructional setting. These procedures were
10 developed in accordance with the latest available guidance from the Centers for Disease Control
11 and in coordination with applicable state, tribal, and local health officials. These procedures
12 supplement Policy 1905. All provisions in Policy 1905 remain in effect.

13
14
15 Personnel Cleaning and Disinfecting

16
17 Personnel will evaluate and identify surfaces and objects to be cleaned and disinfected in
18 accordance with their knowledge, experience, and the latest available guidance from the Centers
19 for Disease Control, state, tribal, and local health officials. Personnel will have access to or the
20 opportunity to access the latest available guidance upon request to their supervisor.

21
22 Personnel will coordinate with colleagues and supervisors to develop a plan, schedule, and
23 routine to regularly clean and disinfect identified surfaces and objects. Personnel will honor this
24 plan, schedule, and routine until adjusted. Reasons for adjustment may include but are not
25 limited to change in school schedule, absence of colleagues, availability of equipment and
26 supplies, and federal, state, tribal or local health directives and guidance. If adjustment is
27 necessary, personnel will again coordinate with colleagues and supervisors to improve the plan,
28 schedule, and routine. Personnel will solicit and accept perspectives from colleagues and other
29 school officials when considering improvements to the plan.

30
31 Personnel will prioritize disinfecting frequently touched and indoor surfaces. Hard and non-
32 porous surfaces and objects that are touched daily will be the top priority for disinfection on a
33 daily basis. Hard and non-porous surfaces and objects that are not indoors or have not been
34 occupied for seven days will be routinely cleaned. Personnel will first clean visibly dirty
35 surfaces and objects prior to disinfection by using the appropriate cleaning or disinfecting
36 product for the identified surface, object, or task. Personnel will always use chemicals, products,
37 and substances authorized by Policy 1905 in a manner consistent with the applicable instructions.

38
39 Personnel will thoroughly clean or launder soft, porous, or fabric-based materials as permitted by
40 location and substance. During evaluation and identification of surfaces, personnel will consider
41 removing soft and porous materials in high traffic areas that may increase risk of exposure.

42
43 Personnel will establish and maintain safe work practices in accordance with these procedures
44 and School District policy in order to reduce the risk of exposure.

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4 Physical Distancing and Work Areas
5

6 Staff members working in the school when no students are present will maintain appropriate
7 physical distance from their colleagues as permitted by their duties and work setting to minimize
8 contact and risk of exposure. Staff members will have access to disinfecting wipes or
9 disinfecting spray and disposable paper towels and time to clean their desk, office, work area or
10 classroom when needed.
11

12
13 Ventilation
14

15 Personnel will review and ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of
16 outdoor air as much as possible. Classroom staff are authorized to open windows and doors to
17 increase air flow in a manner that does not pose a safety or health risk to students and staff.
18 Risks to consider include but are not limited to weather, risk of falling, and triggering asthma
19 symptoms.
20

21 Water Systems
22

23 Personnel will review water systems and features including but not limited to sink faucets,
24 drinking fountains, decorative fountains to ensure they are safe to use after a prolonged facility
25 shutdown. Drinking fountains will be cleaned and sanitized in accordance with this procedure.
26 The administration may provide alternative water sources if available. Staff and students are
27 authorized to bring their own water to minimize use and touching of water fountains.
28

29
30 Report and Revision
31

32 These administrative procedures will be reported to the board of trustees upon adoption and
33 implementation by the administration in accordance with Policy 1310. The board of trustees
34 retains the authority to amend policy and procedures. Any revision to these procedures will be
35 reported to the board of trustees.
36

37 Policy History:

38 Adopted on: 8/20/2020

39 Reviewed on: 7/30/2021

40 Revised on: 8/24/2021

41 Terminated on:
42

1 **Big Sky School District**

2
3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1905

4
5 Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety

6
7 The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy during the term of the
8 declared public health emergency to ensure the safe and healthy delivery of education services
9 provided to students on school property in accordance with Policy 1906. The supervising
10 teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the
11 protocols in coordination with state and local health officials.

12
13 Symptoms of Illness

14
15 Students and staff who are ill, feeling ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise demonstrating symptoms
16 of illness must not come to school or work. Students who have a fever or are exhibiting other
17 signs of illness must be isolated in a designated area until such time as parents or caregiver may
18 arrive at the school to retrieve the ill student. All surfaces and areas should be thoroughly
19 cleaned and disinfected once the student has vacated the area by staff utilizing safety measures in
20 accordance with state and/or local health standards as applicable. Students will be permitted to
21 make up work in accordance with District Policy 1906. Staff members will be provided access
22 to leave in accordance with the applicable Master Contract.

23
24 Parents, guardians, or caregivers of students who are ill, feeling ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise
25 demonstrating symptoms of illness must not be present at the school for any reason including but
26 not limited events or gatherings or to drop off or pick up students excepted as provided by this
27 policy.

28
29 Physical Distancing

30
31 Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors will, whenever possible, maintain a three-foot distance
32 between themselves and their colleagues and peers throughout the school day inside any school
33 building.

34
35 Drop off and pick up of students will be completed in a manner that limits direct contact between
36 parents and staff members and adheres to social distancing expectations around the exterior of
37 the school building while on school property.

38
39 Face Coverings as Personal Protective Equipment

40
41 The school District requires all staff, volunteers, visitors and students aged five (5) and older
42 wear a disposable or reusable mask that covers the nose and mouth to protect colleagues and
43 peers while present in any school building. The School district will provide masks or shields to
44 students, volunteers and staff. If a student or staff wears a reusable mask or shield, the district
45 expects the mask be washed on a regular basis to provide maximum protection. The school
46 district will assist students or staff members who request help washing or replacing a mask.

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4 Students, staff, visitors and volunteers are not required to wear a mask under this provision when
5 consuming food or drink, engaged in physical activity, communicating with someone who is
6 hearing impaired, receiving medical attention, or have a medical or developmental condition
7 precluding use of a mask. The superintendent, building principal or their designee may request
8 documentation from a care provider when considering an exception to this provision for medical
9 or developmental reasons.

10
11 All points of entry to any school building or facility open to the public shall have a clearly visible
12 sign posted stating: “Mask or face covering use required for ages 5 and older.”

13
14 Allegations of harassment of any person wearing face coverings or those with recognized
15 exemptions to the face covering requirement will be promptly investigated in accordance with
16 District policy. A student, staff member, or visitor who, after an investigation, is found to
17 engaged in behavior that violates District policy is subject to redirection or discipline. Failure or
18 refusal to wear a face covering by a staff member or student not subject to an exception noted
19 above may result in redirection or discipline in accordance with District policy and codes of
20 conduct, as applicable.

21 22 23 Cleaning and Disinfecting

24
25 School district personnel will routinely both clean by removing germs, dirt and impurities and
26 disinfect by using chemicals to kill germs on all surfaces and objects in any school building and
27 on school property that are frequently touched. This process shall include cleaning
28 objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily.

29
30 Personnel will clean with the cleaners typically used and will use all cleaning products according
31 to the directions on the label. Personnel will disinfect with common EPA-registered household
32 disinfectants. Personnel will follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and
33 disinfection products.

34
35 The District will provide EPA-registered disposable wipes to teachers, staff, and secondary
36 students so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped
37 down before use. Supervising teacher or administrators are required to ensure adequate supplies
38 to support cleaning and disinfection practices.

39 40 Student Arrival

41
42 Hand hygiene stations will be available at the entrance of any school building, so that children
43 can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, the School
44 District will provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer will be kept out of
45 elementary students’ reach and student use will be supervised by staff.

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4 A District employee will greet children as they arrive to ensure orderly compliance with the
5 provisions of this policy.
6

7
8 Temperature Screening
9

10 Designated School District staff are authorized to test the temperature of students with an
11 approved non-contact or touchless temperature reader. Students who have a fever or are
12 exhibiting other signs of illness must be isolated in a designated area until such time as parents or
13 caregiver may arrive at the school to retrieve the ill student. All surfaces and areas should be
14 thoroughly cleaned and disinfected once the student has vacated the area by staff utilizing safety
15 measures in accordance with state and/or local health standards as applicable.
16

17 When administering a temperature check on a possibly ill student, designated staff members will
18 utilize available physical barriers and personal protective equipment to eliminate or minimize
19 exposures due to close contact to a child who has symptoms during screening
20

21 Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior
22

23 All students, staff, and others present in the any school building will engage in hand hygiene at
24 the following times, which include but are not limited to:

- 25 • Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- 26 • Before and after preparing, eating, or handling food or drinks
- 27 • Before and after administering medication or screening temperature
- 28 • After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- 29 • After recess
- 30 • After handling garbage
- 31 • After assisting students with handwashing
- 32 • After use of the restroom
33

34 Hand hygiene includes but is not limited to washing hands with soap and water for at least 20
35 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol
36 can be used if soap and water are not readily available.
37

38 Staff members will supervise children when they use hand sanitizer and soap to prevent
39 ingestion.
40

41 Staff members will place grade level appropriate posters describing handwashing steps near
42 sinks.
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4 Employees who have documented high risk designation from a medical provider are entitled to
5 reasonable accommodation within the meaning of that term in accordance with the Americans
6 with Disabilities Act and Section 504 as outlined in District Policy 5002. These accommodations
7 may include a plan developed in coordination with and authorized by the supervising teacher,
8 administrator or other designated supervisor. Such employees may also be eligible for available
9 leave in accordance with the applicable policy or master agreement provision.
10

11 12 Food Preparation and Meal Service 13

14 Facilities must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations and guidance
15 related to safe preparation of food.
16

17 Sinks used for food preparation must not be used for any other purposes.
18

19 Staff and students will wash their hands in accordance with this policy.
20
21

22 Transportation Services 23

24 The Board of Trustees authorizes the transportation of eligible transportees to and from the
25 school facility in a manner consistent with the protocols established in this policy. The
26 transportation director and school bus drivers will clean and disinfect each seat on each bus after
27 each use. Face coverings must be worn on all district transportation vehicles: route busses,
28 activity busses and any district vehicle in use to transport students on behalf of the district.
29

30 Public Awareness 31

32 The School District will communicate with parents, citizens, and other necessary stakeholders
33 about the protocols established in this policy and the steps taken to implement the protocols
34 through all available and reasonable means.
35

36 Confidentiality 37

38 This policy in no way limits or adjusts the School District's obligations to honor staff and student
39 privacy rights. All applicable district policies and handbook provision governing confidentiality
40 of student and staff medical information remain in full effect.
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4 Transfer of Funds for Safety Purposes
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6 The Board of Trustees may transfer state or local revenue from any budgeted or non-budgeted
7 fund, other than the debt service fund or retirement fund, to its building reserve fund in an
8 amount not to exceed the school district's estimated costs of improvements to school and student
9 safety and security to implement this policy in accordance with District Policy 1006FE.
10

11
12 Legal Reference: Governor Directive implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 –
13 Face Coverings - August 12, 2020.
14

15 Cross Reference: Policy 1901 – School District Policy and Procedures
16 Policy 1906 - Student Services and Instructional Delivery
17
18 Policy 1907 – Transportation Services
19 Policy 1006FE – Transfer of Funds for Safety Purposes
20 Policy 3410 – Student examination and screenings
21 Policy 3417 – Communicable Diseases
22 Policy 3431 – Emergency Treatment
23 Policy 1911 - Personnel Use of Leave
24 Policy 1910 – Human Resources and Personnel
25 Policy 4120 - Public Relations
26 Policy 5002 – Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities
27 Policy 5130 – Staff Health
28 Policy 5230 - Prevention of Disease Transmission
29 Policy 6110 – Superintendent Authority
30 Policy 6122 - Delegation of Authority
31

32
33 Policy History:

34 Adopted on: 8/20/2020
35 Reviewed on:7/30/2021
36 Revised on: 8/24/2021
37 Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2
3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1906P

4
5 Student Instruction Resources and Best Practices

6
7 In accordance with Policy 1005FE – Proficiency Based Learning and Section 20-9-311(4)(d),
8 MCA, “a school district may include in its calculation of ANB a pupil who is enrolled in a
9 program providing fewer than the required aggregate hours of pupil instruction under subsection
10 (4)(a) or (4)(b) if the pupil has demonstrated proficiency in the content ordinarily covered by the
11 instruction as determined by the school board using district assessments. The ANB of a pupil
12 under this subsection (4)(d) must be converted to an hourly equivalent based on the hours of
13 instruction ordinarily provided for the content over which the student has demonstrated
14 proficiency.”

15
16 Proficiency or satisfying aggregate hours of instruction can be achieved through an on-site, off-
17 site, or blended learning model as outlined in Policy 1906.

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1906P
Page 3 of 3

25 Legal Reference: Section 20-1-101, MCA – Definitions
26 Section 20-1-301, MCA – School Fiscal Year
27 Section 20-9-311, MCA – Calculation of Average Number Belonging
28 Section 20-7-118, MCA - Offsite Provision of Educational Services
29 Section 20-7-1601, MCA – Transformational Learning –Legislative Intent
30 ARM 10.55.906(4)) – High School Credit

32 Cross Reference: Policy 1005FE – Proficiency-Based Learning
33 Policy 1902 – Alternative Grading
34 Policy 1905 - Staff, Student, and Community Health and Safety
35 Policy 2100 – School Calendar
36 Policy 2140 – Guidance and Counseling
37 Policy 2161 – Special Education
38 Policy 2168 – Distance Learning
39 Policy 2410 – Graduation
40 Policy 2420 – Grading and Progress Reports
41 Policy 2421 – Promotion and Retention
42 Policy 2150 – Suicide Training and Awareness
43 Policy 3125 – Homeless Students
44 Policy 3122 - Attendance Policy
45 Policy 3310 - Student Discipline

1

2 Policy History:

3 Adopted on: 8/20/2020

4 Reviewed on: 7/30/2021

5 Revised on: 8/24/2021

6 Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2

3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1907

4

5 School District Declaration of Emergency

6

7 The Board of Trustees is authorized to declare that a state of emergency exists within the
8 community. A declaration issued by the Board of Trustees is distinct from any declaration in
9 effect or previously issued by local, state or federal authorities. An emergency declaration issued
10 by the Board of Trustees authorizes the School District to take extraordinary measures to protect
11 students and staff while delivering education services in a manner authorized by law. The
12 method and location of instruction and related educational services shall be implemented in a
13 manner that serves the needs of students, their families, and staff and preserves the School
14 District’s full entitlement of funding.

15

16 Legal Reference:	Section 20-9-801 - 802, MCA	Emergency School Closure
	Section 20-9-806, MCA	School closure by declaration of
		emergency
	Section 20-9-805.	Rate of reduction in annual
		apportionment entitlement.

20

21

22 Policy History:
 23 Adopted on: 8/20/2020
 24 Reviewed on:
 25 Revised on:
 26 Terminated on:

1 **Big SkySchool District**

2
3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1908

4
5 Family Engagement

6
7 The Board of Trustees authorizes the supervising teacher or district administrator to arrange for
8 any combination of physical instructional packets, virtual or electronic based course meetings
9 and assignments, self-directed or parent/guardian-assisted learning opportunities, and other
10 educational efforts available to staff and students that can be relied upon for grade or credit. Only
11 students who are: immunocompromised or have another “high risk” health care condition as
12 attested to by a doctor, students who are under a quarantine as a result of being identified as a
13 close contact of a COVID 19 positive case and students who are infected with COVID 19 and
14 placed in isolation as a result. The Board of Trustees authorizes the supervising teacher or district
15 administrator to arrange for any combination of physical instructional packets, virtual or
16 electronic based course meetings and assignments, self-directed or parent/guardian-assisted
17 learning opportunities, and other educational efforts available to staff and students that can be
18 relied upon for grade or credit on a case by case basis based on a documented health related
19 need.
20
21

22 Legal Reference: Section 20-1-101, MCA – Definitions
23 Section 20-1-301, MCA – School Fiscal Year
24 Section 20-9-311, MCA – Calculation of Average Number Belonging
25 Section 20-7-118, MCA - Offsite Provision of Educational Services
26 Section 20-7-1601, MCA – Transformational Learning –Legislative Intent
27 ARM 10.55.906(4)) – High School Credit
28

29 Cross Reference: Policy 1906 – Student Instruction and Services
30 Policy 1908F – Family Onsite Opt-Out Form
31

32 Policy History:

33 Adopted on: 8/20/2020

34 Reviewed on: 7/30/2021

35 Revised on: 8/24/2021

36 Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2

3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1911

4

5 School District Budget Adoption, Amendment and Audit

6

7 The period of the school fiscal year affected by the declared public health emergency shall be the
8 longer of the portion of the school fiscal year covered by an emergency declared by the
9 President, Congress, Governor, Montana Legislature, State or County Health Department or the
10 portion of the school fiscal year identified in the board's declaration of an emergency. The
11 School District shall avail itself of all flexibilities allowed by law, rule, or regulation and shall be
12 otherwise governed by the school finance laws and rules of the state of Montana. The School
13 District shall comply with auditing requirements and reserves the authority to assert its rights to
14 manage school district funds or seek state and federal funds in a manner consistent with the full
15 flexibility available under all applicable laws.

16

17 Legal Reference: Article X, section 8 Montana Constitution
18 Title 20, Chapter 9, Part 8, Montana Code Annotated

19

20 Policy History:

21 Adopted on: 8/20/2020

22 Reviewed on:

23 Revised on:

24 Terminated on:

1 **Big Sky School District**

2

3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1912

4

5 School District Elections Rescheduled Due to Emergency

6

7 The County Superintendent may cancel the School District’s election due to an emergency
8 declared by the Governor. As soon as convenient after the declaration of a state of emergency or
9 disaster is terminated, the trustees of the district shall set a new date for the election. Notice of
10 such election shall be published for 7 consecutive days in a newspaper of general circulation in
11 the district and posted for 7 days at district polling places. All applicable deadlines governing
12 school election procedures in Montana law shall be reset and calculated based on the date of
13 rescheduled election.

14

15 Legal Reference: Section 20-20-108, MCA - Rescheduling Of School Election Canceled
16 Due To Declaration Of State Of Emergency Or Disaster
17 Title 20, Chapter 20, MCA

18

19

20 Policy History:

21 Adopted on: 8/20/2020

22 Reviewed on:

23 Revised on:

24 Terminated on: