

**DRUMMOND School Districts 11 & 2**  
**Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan**

Date of Original “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan Adoption: August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Date Plan was Last Revised: Nov. 14, 2022

Next Regularly Scheduled Month for Consideration (At least quarterly):

March 13, 2023

Dates Reviewed: 9/14/2021, 12/13/2021, 6/13/2022, 11/14/2022,

03/20/2023.06/08/2023

***THIS PLAN IS AVAILABLE AT <https://www.drummondschool.net/>***

**March 2020 - June 2021**

1. The DRUMMOND School Districts 11 & 2 were 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. Although our district was authorized to remain closed, we mobilized by March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and began remote instruction during the timeframe when we were authorized to remain closed. 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. Our school district finished the 2020-21 school year through remote instruction. During the 2020-21 school year, our means of operation have included primarily in-person instruction and secondarily remote learning.
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 a thorough plan created by a committee of stakeholders that followed CDC guidance regarding mitigation strategies to limit exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 in school settings, as well as following directives from local health authorities and the Governor.
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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020
2. March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020
3. April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020
4. April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020
5. August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020
6. January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021
7. June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021
8. August 14, 2021
9. December 13, 2021
10. June 13, 2022
11. November 14, 2022
12. March 20, 2023
13. June 08, 2023

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. 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.

Drummond School Districts 11 & 2 also sent out a detailed survey to all families and staff requesting anonymous input about returning to in-person instruction and school in June and July of 2020. The data from these surveys helped the Reopening Drummond Schools Committee determine what steps to take as we looked to return safely.

#### **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, DRUMMOND School Districts 11 & 2 utilized the Montana Public Education Center *Roadmap for Safely Reopening Montana's Public Schools Using Emergency School District 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 District's "Reopening Drummond Schools Plan" and the "Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan" 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 plans 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.

Drummond School Districts 11 & 2 implemented plan 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.

Drummond School Districts 11 & 2 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 Drummond School Districts 11 & 2 have 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 plan and policies as new and updated guidance and best practices have become available.

Further, the plans and 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 plan 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 plans and 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.

Drummond School Districts 11 & 2 will continue to follow the plans 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 plans, and a description of any such plans, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC: Please see “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan” and “Keeping Drummond Open Plan” attachments. Drummond School Districts 11 & 2 did not adopt the 1900 series of policies, but instead utilized this resource, among many others, to help draft our plans.

Topic	School District Policy Reference	Description of Policy (All referenced policies can be found at the end of this document.)	Policy Adopted and Revised Date(s)
Universal and correct wearing of masks.	<i>Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan</i>	The supervising teacher, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The plans establish regulations <b>making optional</b> face coverings as personal protective equipment, with the Board voting to allow teachers to require masks or face coverings in their classrooms if social distancing cannot be maintained.	1. 8/10/2020 2. 1/11/2021 3. 6/14/2021  Facecoverings are optional.
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).	<i>Reopening Drummond Schools Plan and Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan</i>	The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this plan 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 “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan”, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property in accordance with said plan, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal,	1. 8/10/2020 2. 1/11/2021 3. 6/14/2021  Social distancing protocols are encouraged but not strictly enforced.

		<p>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 school buildings, 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>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 “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan” 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.</p>	
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.	<i>Reopening Drummond Schools Plan</i> and <i>Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan</i>	<p>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 our “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan” and “Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan”, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property 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 plans establishes regulations supports procedures regarding healthy hand hygiene behavior and symptoms of illness.</p> <p>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</p>	<p>March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020  August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  August 14, 2021  December 13, 2021  June 13, 2022  November 14, 2022  March 20, 2023  June 08,2023</p> <p>We continue to encourage and teach hand washing routines for all age groups.</p>

		with Policy 1310 in order to implement “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan” 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.	
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.	<i>Reopening Drummond Schools Plan</i> and <i>Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan</i>	<p>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 our “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan” and “Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan”, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property 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 plans establishes regulations supports procedures regarding healthy hand hygiene behavior and symptoms of illness.</p> <p>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 “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan” 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.</p>	<p>March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020  August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  August 14, 2021  December 13, 2021  June 13, 2022  November 14, 2022  March 20, 2023  June 08,2023</p>
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.	3417;  <i>Reopening Drummond Schools Plan</i> and <i>Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan</i>	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 our “Reopening Drummond Schools Plan” and “Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan”, and a safe workplace when staff are present on school property and the safety, health and well-being of parents and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 8/10/2020</li> <li>2. 1/11/2021</li> <li>3. 6/14/2021</li> </ol> <p>No longer quarantine for illness, but encourage staying home when ill or fevered.</p>

		<p>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 plans establishes regulations supports procedures regarding healthy hand hygiene behavior and symptoms of illness.</p> <p><b>3417:</b> 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. 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.</p>	
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</p>	<p>1. 12/22/2020 2. 6/14/2021</p> <p>County health continues to provide these shot clinics in our schools.</p>



		<p>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><b>3413:</b> 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>	
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.	2162; 2162P	<p>During the 2020-21 SY, the Board of Trustees authorized the supervising teacher or district administrator to provide to families requesting to opt-out of onsite instruction at the school facility for the duration of the school year or throughout the duration of a quarantine. Students of families opting out of onsite instruction at the school facility received offsite, online, and proficiency-based instruction, or any combination of the foregoing at the discretion of the School District in accordance with the District Plan and Policies 2162 and 2162P. Students of families opting out of onsite delivery were treated the same as students instructed at the school facility for purposes of grading, discipline, and other educational rights.</p> <p><b>2162:</b> 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><b>2162P:</b> 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>	<p>March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020  August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  August 14, 2021  December 13, 2021  June 13, 2022  November 14, 2022  March 20, 2023  June 08, 2023</p>



Coordination with State and local health officials.	3417;  <i>Reopening Drummond Schools Plan</i> and <i>Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan</i>	<p>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 these procedures into an easy to read plan. School District Policies are intended to govern during any emergency 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>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><b>3417:</b> 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>	<p>March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020  August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  August 14, 2021  December 13, 2021  June 13, 2022  November 14, 2022  March 20, 2023  June 08, 2023</p>
How the district will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental	2050; 1005FE;  <i>Reopening Drummond Schools Plan</i> and <i>Keeping Drummond</i>	<p>For the 2020-21 SY <b>The Board of Trustees authorized 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 included a complete range of educational services offered by the School District and complied with the requirements of applicable statutes.</b></p>	<p>March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020  April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020  August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021  August 14, 2021  December 13, 2021  June 13, 2022  November 14, 2022  March 20, 2023  June 08, 2023</p>

<p>health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.</p>	<p><i>Schools Open Plan</i></p>	<p>Students completing course work through an offsite or online instructional setting were treated in and have their hours of instruction calculated in the same manner as students attending an onsite institutional setting.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees authorizes proficiency-based ANB calculation in situations when a student demonstrates proficiency in a course area as determined by the Board of Trustees using district assessments consistent with the School District's adopted Plan of Action, District Policy 1005FE, or other measures approved by the Board of Trustees during the course of a school year affected by a public health emergency.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees authorizes a summer program of instructional offerings for the purpose of remediation of credit, maintenance of skills, and enrichment. All classes offered for credit must meet minimum state requirements for accreditation and may be delivered at the school or at another offsite location. Remediation credit courses shall be offered, grades 9-12, in accordance with District advancement requirements. Credit course offerings must be approved by the Board of Trustees</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><b>2050:</b> The School District has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy to ensure the</p>	
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		<p>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> <p>For the SY 2021-22 The Board of Trustees allow only in-person instruction for the school year. A student may request a waiver from the Superintendent for remote learning options. Remote Learning will be an option for students for the duration of documented illness with COVID 19 or a documented COVID 19 quarantine with verification from the health department official or medical doctor. Any remote learning opportunity must be approved by the Superintendent. Any decision may be appealed to the Board of Trustees.</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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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. 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. 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 – Reopening Drummond Schools Plan and Keeping Drummond Schools Open Plan**

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