

## **Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind**

### COVID-19 Emergency Policies 1900

The Board of Public Education and its staff are operating under unusual, even unprecedented circumstances by virtue of the declaration of a statewide emergency by the Governor and the executive orders related to Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind closure to address concerns from the COVID-19 Virus and/or the declaration of an unforeseen emergency (community disaster) made by the Board of Public Education. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Public Education has found it necessary to adopt temporary policies related to Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind emergency closures, the ongoing provision of educational services to students, gatherings at Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind property, health and safety of students, staff and community members, human resource matters and budgetary matters. To ensure clarity and transparency; the Board of Public Education has organized all of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind emergency policies into a temporary chapter. The Board of Public Education has also included this introductory section as a heading for each policy to ensure understanding of the purpose and duration of each policy adopted pursuant to this chapter.

### Purpose(s) of Policies

1. Ensuring that the Board of Public Education charged with the supervision and control of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, in collaboration with their staff leadership teams, make decisions that are in the best interests of students, staff and the community served.
2. Ensuring measures to protect the health and safety of students, staff and community members.
3. Addressing issues relating to student instruction and family engagement.
4. Addressing barriers to learning presented by distance.
5. Improvement of instruction in on-site, offsite, and/or on-line settings.
6. Ensuring continuity of employment of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind staff and/or continuity of services provided by contract transportation providers.
7. Ensuring accountability to families with children.

### Term of COVID-19 Emergency Measures Policies

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Policies Numbered 1900-1999 are intended to govern during any emergency related to COVID-19 declared by the President, Congress, Montana Legislature, Montana Governor, Department of Public Health and Human Services, County Health Department or the Board of Public Education. Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Policies Numbered 1900-1999 shall run until terminated by a vote of the Board of Public Education.

### Cross Reference

2221 – Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Closure  
1400 – Board of Public Education Meetings 1310 – Policy and Procedure  
1420 – Meeting Procedure

### Legal Reference

Executive Orders – 2-2020 and 3-2020 – Office of the Governor and accompanying Directives  
20-9-801-806, MCA – Emergency School Closure 50-1-202-204, MCA – Public Health Laws  
10-3-104, MCA – General Authority of Governor Article X, section 8 – Montana Constitution

### Policy History

Adopted on: 1-15-21  
Reviewed on:  
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Terminated on:

**Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind**

COVID-19 Emergency Measures 1901

Emergency Policy and Procedures

Applicability of Emergency Policy Series

During a State of Emergency declared by the Board of Public Education or other local, State or Federal agency, official, or legislative body, the provisions in the Emergency Policies adopted by the Board of Public Education as codified at 1900-1999 in the district policy manual will govern in the event of any conflict or inconsistency between an Emergency Policy and other provision in the district policy manual. All other aspects of the district policy manual not affected by the provisions in the Emergency Policy Series continue to be in full effect.

Legal References

In the absence of a legal reference on an Emergency Policy adopted by the Board of Public Education, the policy is specifically based on the Board of Public Education authority to supervise and control the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind within the District in accordance with Article X, section 8 of the Montana Constitution.

Adoption and Amendment of Policies

New or revised policies that are required or have required language changes based on State or Federal law or directive, required by administrative rule, or are required due to a declaration of emergency issued by the Board of Public Education or other State or Federal agency official or legislative body may be adopted after the first (1<sup>st</sup>) reading if notice has been given through the agenda provided to the Board of Public Education members and public. All new or amended policies adopted as part of the Emergency Policy Series shall become effective immediately upon adoption unless a specific effective date is stated in the motion for adoption.

Suspension of Policies

Under circumstances that require waiver of a policy, the policy may be suspended by a majority vote of the Board of Public Education members present. To suspend a policy, however, all Board of Public Education members must have received written notice of the meeting, which includes the proposal to suspend a policy and an explanation of the purpose of such proposed suspension.

Administrative Procedures

The Superintendent shall develop such administrative procedures as are necessary to ensure consistent implementation of policies adopted by the Board of Public Education members.

Legal References

§ 20-3-323, MCA District policy and record of acts  
10.55.701, ARM Board of Trustees Title 20, Chapter 9 Part 8, MCA

Policy History

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## **Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind**

### COVID-19 Emergency Measures 1903

#### Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Meetings, Gatherings, Events, and Visitors

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind has adopted the protocols outlined in this policy to govern during the term of the declared public health emergency to ensure individuals present at Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind facility for events or other operationally related reasons honor safety protocols. The supervising teacher, Director of Student Life, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement this policy in coordination with state and local health officials.

#### Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Events

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind shall not hold any physical meetings, gatherings, or events in or on Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind property. Board of Public Education members may authorize meetings, gatherings, and events utilizing electronic means when the meeting, gathering or event is essential to district operations.

#### Visitors to Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind

Visitors to the interior of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building shall not be permitted without the express approval of the supervising teacher, dean, principal, superintendent or designated personnel. Visitors that are authorized to be present in Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building must adhere to all health and safety guidelines outlined in Policy 1905.

#### Volunteers

Volunteers utilized by Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, that have been approved in accordance with Policy 5430 may enter Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building in accordance with the protocols outlined in Policy 1905.

#### Facilities Use Agreements

The Board of Public Education suspends community use of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind facilities. Unless an event is specifically identified necessary by the Board of Public Education, Facilities Use Agreements and other similar requests submitted in accordance with Policy 4330 shall not be considered while this policy governs the period of a public health emergency.

#### Enforcement

Visitors to any Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building or any attendee at a meeting, gathering, or event authorized by the Board of Public Education members in accordance with this policy who fail to honor the requirements of this policy or the directives of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind officials shall be asked to correct their conduct or leave the meeting, gathering, or event in accordance Policy 4315.

### 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

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Revised on:

Terminated on:

1 **Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind**

2

3 **COVID-19 Emergency Measures 1903F**

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5 School Event and Facility Notice

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

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11 SCHOOL EVENT AND FACILITY NOTICE

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13 Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind has taken the precautionary measures adopted by  
14 the Board of Public Education, provided by the Governor of Montana, and directed by the  
15 Cascade County Health Department to protect against the possible spread of COVID-19 and  
16 related illnesses. These measures include but are not limited to cleaning and disinfecting  
17 protocols, physical distancing guidance, limitations on the number of people present for  
18 events, and use of personal protective equipment. There are no assurances these measures will  
19 prevent the spread of COVID-19 or related illnesses at this event or at this facility. By  
20 voluntarily entering this event or facility, attendees are acknowledging their specific  
21 awareness and knowledge that there are inherent risks of exposure at public gatherings  
22 and public facilities. These inherent risks that attendees specifically acknowledge include  
23 but are not limited to: injury; illness; hospitalization, chronic health issues arising out of  
24 COVID-19, quarantines of an unknown duration to be determined by governing  
25 authorities and death. Attendees acknowledge vulnerable individuals as defined by the  
26 Centers for Disease Control are at greater risk of serious complications from  
27 exposure. Attendees are advised to comply with physical distancing limits consisting of a  
28 minimum of 6 feet of distance from others at all times and are further advised to consider  
29 the use of masks/face coverings while on school property and to use personal hand  
30 sanitizer before, during and after an event. Attendees confirm that they have reviewed,  
31 thoroughly understand and agree to comply with all guidance for the phased reopening of  
32 Montana issued by the Montana Governor's Office. All School District Policies are in effect  
33 when attending this school event or otherwise accessing this facility. Any negligence arising  
34 out of your access to this facility or attendance at a school event shall be attributed to you as  
35 comparative negligence within the meaning of Section 27-1-702, MCA.

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37 Policy History:

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40 Revised on:

41 Terminated on:

## **Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind**

### COVID-19 Emergency Measures 1905

#### Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind 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 the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind property in accordance with Policy 1906, and a safe workplace when staff are present on Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind property, and the safety, health and well-being of parents and community members. The supervising teacher, principal, director of student life, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials.

#### Symptoms of Illness

Students and staff who are ill, feeling ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise demonstrating symptoms of illness must not come to school or work. Students who have a fever or are exhibiting other signs of illness must be isolated in a designated area until parents or caregiver may arrive at the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind to retrieve the ill student. All surfaces and areas should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected once the student has vacated the area by staff utilizing safety measures in accordance with state and/or local health standards as applicable. Students may engage in alternative delivery of education services during the period of illness or be permitted to make up work in accordance with Policy 1906. Staff members will be provided access to leave in accordance with Federal and State Policy or the applicable Master Contract or Memorandum of Understanding.

Parents, guardians, or caregivers of students, who are ill, feeling ill, diagnosed as ill, or otherwise demonstrating symptoms of illness must not be present at Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind for any reason including but not limited events or gatherings or to drop off or pick-up students excepted as provided by this policy. To avoid exposing others to illness, parents or caregivers who are ill must make arrangements with others to transport students to Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind or events, if at all practicable. If not practicable, parents, guardians or caregivers must not leave their vehicle during pickup or drop off and must arrange with Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind staff to supervise students in accordance with physical distancing guidelines in this Policy.

#### Physical Distancing

Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors will maintain a six-foot distance between themselves and their colleagues and peers throughout the school day inside any Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building, provided transportation, and on Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind property before and after school. Staff members will arrange classrooms and restructure courses, transportation services, and food service to meet this standard.



Recess will continue as scheduled in accordance with physical distancing guidance without the use of playground equipment. Any other use of school playgrounds is strictly prohibited.

Drop off and pick up of students will be completed in a manner that limits direct contact between parents and staff members and adheres to social distancing expectations around the exterior of Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building while on Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind property.

#### Masks as Personal Protective Equipment

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind requires all staff and students to wear cotton-based masks, face shields to protect colleagues and peers while present in any Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building. Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind will provide masks to students and staff and expect that the masks be washed on a regular basis to ensure maximum protection. The Board of Public Education members' decision to require and provide masks is based on a review of the circumstances in the community and consultation with local health officials on issues including but not limited to the possibility of exposure and availability of masks.

#### Cleaning and Disinfecting

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind personnel will routinely both clean by removing germs, dirt and impurities and disinfect by using chemicals to kill germs on all surfaces and objects in any Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building and on Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind property. This process shall include cleaning objects/surfaces not ordinarily cleaned daily.

Personnel will clean with the cleaners typically used and will use all cleaning products according to the directions on the label. Personnel will disinfect with common EPA-registered household disinfectants. A list of products that are EPA-approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19 is available from the supervising teacher or administrator. Personnel will follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind will provide EPA-registered disposable wipes to teachers, staff, and secondary students so that commonly used surfaces (e.g., keyboards, desks, remote controls) can be wiped down before use. Administrators are required to ensure adequate supplies to support cleaning and disinfection practices.

#### Student Arrival

Hand hygiene stations will be available at the entrance of any Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building, so that children can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind will provide hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizer will be kept out of elementary students' reach and student use will be supervised by staff.

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind employees will greet children outside Montana

School for the Deaf and the Blind building as they arrive to ensure orderly compliance with the provisions of this policy.

### Temperature Screening

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

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

### Healthy Hand Hygiene Behavior

All students, staff, and others present in Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind building will engage in hand hygiene at the following times, which include but are not limited to:

- Arrival to the facility and after breaks
- Before and after preparing, eating, or handling food or drink
- Before and after administering medication or screening temperature
- After encountering bodily fluid
- After recess
- After handling garbage
- After assisting students with handwashing
- After use of the restroom

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

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

Staff members will place grade level appropriate posters describing handwashing steps near sinks.

### Vulnerable Individuals

Vulnerable individuals (defined by the Centers for Disease Control at the time of this policy's adoption as those age 65 or older or those with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions

requiring such therapy) are authorized to talk to their healthcare provider to assess their risk and to determine if they should telework during the period of declared public health emergency.

Employees who have documented high risk designation from a medical provider are entitled to reasonable accommodation within the meaning of that term in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 as outlined in Policy 5002. These accommodations may include but are not limited to teleworking in accordance with a work plan developed in coordination with and authorized by the supervising teacher, administrator or other designated supervisor. Such employees may also be eligible for available leave in accordance with the applicable policy or master agreement provision.

#### Food Preparation and Meal Service

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

Sinks used for food preparation must not be used for any other purposes. Staff and students will wash their hands in accordance with this policy.

#### Transportation Services

The Board of Public Education members authorize the transportation of eligible transportees to and from Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind facility in a manner consistent with the protocols established in this policy. The transportation director and Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind bus drivers will clean and disinfect each seat on each bus after each use.

#### Public Awareness

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind will communicate with parents, citizens, and other necessary stakeholders about the protocols established in this policy and the steps taken to implement the protocols through all available and reasonable means.

#### Confidentiality

This policy in no way limits or adjusts Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind obligations to honor staff and student privacy rights. All applicable policies and handbook provision governing confidentiality of student and staff medical information remain in full effect.

#### Cross Reference

Policy 1901 – School District Policy and Procedures  
Policy 1906 - Student Services and Instructional Delivery  
Policy 1006FE – Transfer of Funds for Safety Purposes  
Policy 3410 – Student examination and screenings  
Policy 3417 – Communicable Diseases  
Policy 3431 – Emergency Treatment  
Policy 4120 - Public Relations  
Policy 5002 – Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities

Policy 5130 – Staff Health  
Policy 5230 - Prevention of Disease Transmission  
Policy 6110 – Superintendent Authority  
Policy 6122 - Delegation of Authority

Policy History

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## **Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind**

### COVID-19 Emergency Measures 1906

#### Student Instruction and Services

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind 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 Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind, offsite at other locations using available resources including but not limited to online methods. The student life director, principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement this policy.

As outlined in Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Policy 2100, and except for students determined by Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind to be proficient using Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind assessments, the adopted calendar has a minimum number of 720 aggregate instructional hours for students in kindergarten through third grade; 1,080 hours for students in fourth through eleventh grade and 1,050 hours for students in twelfth grade.

Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind may satisfy the aggregate number of hours through any combination of onsite, offsite, and online instruction. Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind administration is directed to ensure that all students are offered access to the complete range of educational programs and services for the education program required by the accreditation standards adopted by the Board of Public Education.

For the purposes of this policy and Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind calculation of ANB and “aggregate hours of instruction” within the meaning of that term in Montana law, the term “instruction” shall be construed as being synonymous with and in support of the broader goals of “learning” and full development of educational potential as set forth in Article X, section 1 of the Montana Constitution. Instruction includes innovative teaching strategies that focus on student engagement for the purposes of developing a students’ interests, passions, and strengths. The term instruction shall include any directed, distributive, collaborative and/or experiential learning activity provided, supervised, guided, facilitated or coordinated by the teacher of record in a given course that is done purposely to achieve content proficiency and facilitate the learning of acquisition of knowledge, skills and abilities by, and to otherwise fulfill the full educational potential of each child.

Staff shall calculate the number of hours students have received instruction as defined in this policy through a combined calculation of services received onsite at Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind or services provided or accessed at offsite or online instructional settings including, but not limited to, any combination of physical instructional packets, virtual or electronic based course meetings and assignments, self-directed or parent-assisted learning opportunities, and other educational efforts undertaken by the staff and students that can be given for grade or credit. Staff shall report completed hours of instruction as defined in this policy to the supervising teacher, building principal, or district administrator for final calculation.

Students shall receive grades for completed coursework in accordance with the grading scale for the individual staff member or the alternative grading procedures outlined in Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Policy 1902.

The Board of Public Education may revise the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind 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.

In order to comply with the requirements of the calendar, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Policy and Section 20-1-301, MCA, Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind shall implement the instructional schedules and methods identified in this policy.

NOTE: Select all of the Options the Board of Public Education decides to implement in the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind in reference to the manner in which educational services will be provided to students at Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind. Option 3 should be selected to accompany Option 1 and Option 2. Using proficiency-based learning in combination with onsite and offsite instruction protects funding if an audit determines that aggregate hours have not been provided. Proficiency determinations should not be used to cease instruction, only to backup and enhance instruction.

#### School Facility as Instructional Setting

The Board of Public Education authorizes instruction of students at the school facility in a manner that satisfies the aggregate number of instructional hours outlined in Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind adopted or revised calendar for a school year affected by a public health emergency. All educational and related services provided at Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind facility shall be completed in accordance with the health and safety protocols outlined in Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Policy 1905.

#### Offsite and Online Instructional Setting

The Board of Public Education authorizes offsite and online instruction of students in a manner that satisfies the aggregate number of instructional hours outlined in Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind 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 Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind 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.

The Board of Public Education authorizes the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind Superintendent to permit students to utilize an offsite or online instructional setting at parental request if onsite instruction is offered by Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind. Students receiving offsite delivery of education services may be eligible for assistance with accessibility to offsite or remote learning opportunities.

### Proficiency-Based Learning

The Board of Public Education authorizes proficiency based ANB calculation in situations when a student demonstrates proficiency in a course area as determined by the Board of Public Education using Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind assessments consistent with the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind adopted Plan of Action, Policy 1005FE, or other measures approved by the Board of Public Education during the course of a school year affected by a public health emergency.

The Board of Public Education waives the minimum number of instructional hours for students who demonstrate proficiency in a course area using district assessments that include, but are not limited to, the course or class teacher's determination of proficiency as defined by the Board of Public Education. This determination shall be based on a review of the student's completed coursework, participation in course delivery, and other methods applicable to the specific course or class. The Board of Public Education authorizes the use of the proficiency determination process for students who have selected this method of delivery, students for whom the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind is unable to document satisfaction of the required minimum aggregate number of hours through the offsite or onsite methods outlined in this policy, or other students whom Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind personnel determine satisfy the definition of proficient or meeting proficiency.

This provision is based in the declaration by the Montana Legislature that any regulation discriminating against a student who has participated in proficiency-based learning is inconsistent with the Montana Constitution.

### Special Education and Accommodation of Disabilities or Diagnoses

Students shall receive services in accordance with the applicable Individualized Education Plan 34 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. The supervising teacher or building administrator shall coordinate with parents and the special education staff or cooperative to ensure all applicable statutes are followed in accordance with U.S. Department of Education guidelines.

### Student Attendance

The Board of Public Education authorizes the supervising teacher, building principal or district administration to set an attendance policy for students that takes into account the location of instructional services, the applicability of proficiency-based instruction, the student's grade level, and the health and safety of the student and their household. Students are expected to complete assigned work. If a student is not present for the instructional day, the student shall be permitted to complete all work assigned by the teacher if not present for instruction within a reasonable period of time determined by the teacher. Students shall not lose credit or incur a grade reduction for reasons related to attendance without good reason as determined by the Board of Public Education.

### Student Safety and Counseling

Students shall have access to regular Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind 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.

### Homeless Students and Students in Foster Care

This policy in no way limits or adjusts Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind obligations to homeless students or students in foster care. Applicable Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind policies serving these students, or this population of students remain in full effect.

### Student Discipline

This policy in no way limits or adjusts Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind expectations for student conduct. All applicable policies and handbook provisions governing student conduct remain in full effect.

### 2020/2021 School Schedule and Calendar

It is the objective of the Board of Public Education to ensure the proactive operations of the Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind during a public health emergency by: (1) meeting the educational needs of the students; (2) complying with all applicable statutes and rules pertaining to the aggregate hours of instruction; and 3) identifying and implementing innovative methods to meet educational and other needs of each student at Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind.

### Legal Reference

Article X, Section 1, Montana Constitution  
Section 20-1-101, MCA – Definitions  
Section 20-1-301, MCA – School Fiscal Year  
Section 20-9-311, MCA – Calculation of Average Number Belonging  
Section 20-7-118, MCA - Offsite Provision of Educational Services  
Section 20-7-1601, MCA - Transformational Learning –Legislative Intent ARM 10.55.906(4) –  
High School Credit

### Cross Reference

Policy 1005FE – Proficiency-Based Learning  
Policy 1902 – Alternative Grading  
Policy 1905 - Staff, Student, and Community Health and Safety  
Policy 2100 – School Calendar  
Policy 2140 – Guidance and Counseling  
Policy 2161 – Special Education  
Policy 2168 – Distance Learning  
Policy 2410 – Graduation



Policy 2420 – Grading and Progress Reports  
Policy 2421 – Promotion and Retention  
Policy 2150 – Suicide Training and Awareness  
Policy 3125 – Homeless Students  
Policy 3122 - Attendance Policy  
Policy 3310 - Student Discipline

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## **Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind**

### COVID-19 Emergency Measures 1907

#### School District Declaration of Emergency

The Board of Public Education is authorized to declare that a state of emergency exists within the community. A declaration issued by the Board of Public Education members is distinct from any declaration in effect or previously issued by local, state or federal authorities. An emergency declaration issued by the Board of Public Education authorizes Montana School of the Deaf and the Blind to take extraordinary measures to protect students and staff while delivering education services in a manner authorized by law. The method and location of instruction and related educational services shall be implemented in a manner that serves the needs of students, their families, and staff and preserves Montana School for the Deaf and the Blind's full entitlement of funding.

#### 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.

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