

## **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:  
Revised on:  
Terminated on: