

**Columbus School District**  
**Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan**

Date of Original Adoption: April 27, 2020

Date Plan was Last Revised: February 15, 2021

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

Dates Reviewed: September 8, 2020, February 15, 2021, August 16, 2021, December 14, 2021, May 10, 2022, August 22, 2022, December 13, 2022, June 11, 2023, February 20, 2024

**March 2020 - June 2021**

1. The Columbus 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.

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. 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:

- i. Hybrid – The district used a hybrid model of instruction that included remote learning and provided opportunity for students struggling with remote learning access to teachers in-person by appointment during the closure with required safety precautions at all levels of instruction.
  - ii. Offsite – 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 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 2023**

#### **Part I: Documentation of Meaningful Consultation in Developing and Refining the School District's plan from March 2020 Through June 2023:**

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. April 27, 2020
2. May 12, 2020
3. July 21, 2020
4. August 3, 2020
5. August 11, 2020
6. August 18, 2020
7. November 10, 2020
8. January 12, 2021
9. February 9, 2021
10. February 15, 2021
11. March 9, 2021
12. August 16, 2021
13. December 14, 2021
14. May 10, 2022
15. August 22, 2022
16. December 13, 2022
17. June 11, 2023
18. February 20, 2024

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. Medical professionals, Stillwater County Health Department, 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.

## **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, Columbus 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 and 21-22 school fiscal years 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.

Columbus 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.

Columbus 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 Columbus 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.

On May 22, 2022, the Columbus Board of Trustees voted to remove the following policies listed below due to low COVID-19 related incidents during the 2021-22 school year involving COVID-19 outbreaks. With the removal of the emergency board policies, put in place during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Columbus Board of Trustees shall re-institute these policies at any time it deems necessary to manage any new outbreaks associated with the COVID-19 virus within the upcoming school year. These policies shall continue to be a part of this on-going **Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan**, due to the uncertainty of future outbreaks, and as a template for our community as to what the district shall immediately adopt if needed to provide a safe and appropriate education to all students within the Columbus Schools District.

2. In the event of another COVID-19 outbreak, the district has re-adopted the emergency policies, presented below, 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	<b>1905:</b> 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,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4/27/2020</li> <li>2. 9/8/2020</li> <li>3. 2/15/2021</li> <li>4. 8/16/2021</li> <li>5. 12/14/2021</li> <li>6. 5/10/2022</li> <li>7. 8/22/2022</li> <li>8. 12/13/2022</li> <li>9. 6/11/2023</li> <li>10. 2/20/2024</li> </ol>

		principal, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement the protocols in coordination with state and local health officials. The policy establishes regulations making optional face coverings as personal protective equipment.	
Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding).	1905; 1905P	<p><b>1905:</b> 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><b>1905P:</b> 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 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"> <li>1. 4/27/2020</li> <li>2. 9/8/2020</li> <li>3. 2/15/2021</li> <li>4. 8/16/2021</li> <li>5. 12/14/2021</li> <li>6. 5/10/2022</li> <li>7. 8/22/2022</li> <li>8. 12/13/2022</li> <li>9. 6/11/2023</li> <li>10. 2/20/2024</li> </ol>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.	1905; 1905P	<p><b>1905:</b> 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4/27/2020</li> <li>2. 9/8/2020</li> <li>3. 2/15/2021</li> <li>4. 8/16/2021</li> <li>5. 12/14/2021</li> <li>6. 5/10/2022</li> <li>7. 8/22/2022</li> <li>8. 12/13/2022</li> <li>9. 6/11/2023</li> <li>10. 2/20/2024</li> </ol>

		<p>The policy establishes regulations regarding healthy hand hygiene behavior and symptoms of illness.</p> <p><b>1905P:</b> 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>	
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.	1905; 1905P	<p><b>1905:</b> 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, cleaning and disinfecting, temperature screening, vulnerable individuals, food preparation and meal service, and transportation services.</p> <p><b>1905P:</b> 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	1905; 3417	<p><b>1905:</b> 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</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4/27/2020</li> <li>2. 9/8/2020</li> <li>3. 2/15/2021</li> <li>4. 8/16/2021</li> <li>5. 12/14/201</li> <li>6. 5/10/2022</li> <li>7. 8/22/2022</li> </ol>

health departments.		<p>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><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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. 12/13/2022</li> <li>9. 6/11/2023</li> <li>10. 2/20/2024</li> </ol>
Diagnostic and screening testing.	1905	<p><b>1905:</b> 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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4/27/2020</li> <li>2. 9/8/2020</li> <li>3. 2/15/2021</li> <li>4. 8/16/2021</li> <li>5. 12/14/2021</li> <li>6. 5/10/2022</li> <li>7. 8/22/2022</li> <li>8. 12/13/2022</li> <li>9. 6/11/23</li> <li>10. 2/20/2024</li> </ol>
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</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 7/2021</li> </ol>

		<p>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><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>	
<p>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies.</p>	<p>1908; 2162; 2162P</p>	<p><b>1908:</b> 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><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</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4/27/2020</li> <li>2. 9/8/2020</li> <li>3. 2/15/2021</li> <li>4. 8/16/2021</li> <li>5. 12/14/2021</li> <li>6. 5/14/2022</li> <li>7. 8/22/2022</li> <li>8. 12/13/2022</li> <li>9. 6/11/23</li> <li>10. 2/20/2024</li> </ol>



		his/her current placement until the matter has been resolved through the process set in the policy.	
Coordination with State and local health officials.	1900; 1905; 1907; 3417	<p><b>1900:</b> 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 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><b>1905:</b> 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><b>1907:</b> 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</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4/27/2020</li> <li>2. 9/8/2020</li> <li>3. 2/15/2021</li> <li>4. 8/16/2022</li> <li>5. 12/14/2021</li> <li>6. 5/10/2022</li> <li>7. 8/22/2022</li> <li>8. 12/13/2022</li> <li>9. 6/11/2023</li> <li>10. 2/20/2024</li> </ol>

		members, if any, have need to know of the affected student's condition.	
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 health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.	1906; 1906P; 2050	<p><b>1906:</b> 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, 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>A. 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>B. 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>C. 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>D. In accordance with District Policy 2011, Section 20-1-301, MCA, and any applicable collective</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 4/27/2020</li> <li>2. 9/8/2020</li> <li>3. 2/15/2021</li> <li>4. 8/16/2021</li> <li>5. 12/14/2021</li> <li>6. 5/10/2022</li> <li>7. 8/22/2022</li> <li>8. 12/13/2022</li> <li>9. 6/11/2023</li> <li>10. 2/20/2024</li> </ol>

		<p>bargaining agreement covering the employment of affected employees, the Board of Trustees may establish a school calendar with an earlier start date and a later end date from non-emergency school years to ensure students receive the minimum number of aggregate instructional hours.</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>1906P:</b> 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> <p><b>2050:</b> 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 March 9, 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. 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. 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 – 1900 Board Policies: Columbus School District**

Introduction

The board of trustees 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 school closure to address concerns from the COVID-19 Virus. As part of its own concurrent declaration of an unforeseen emergency (community disaster), the board of trustees has found it necessary to adopt temporary policies related to emergency school closure. To ensure clarity and transparency, the board has organized all emergency school closure policies into a temporary chapter. The board 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. Addressing barriers to learning presented by distance.
2. Improvement of instruction in offsite setting during school closure.
3. Ensuring equity in services provided, including special education for exceptional children pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 7, Part 4.
4. Mitigation of digital divides that could otherwise create barriers to effective learning.
5. Ensuring adequate nutrition for students relying on the district's nutrition programs.
6. Ensuring continuity of employment of school district 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

The term of School District Policies Numbered 1900-1999 shall run concurrent with any emergency related to COVID-19 declared by the President, Congress, Montana Legislature, Governor, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, county health department or the board of trustees. This policy shall terminate, unless further extended, on the earlier of June 30, 2021 or the date upon which all emergency declarations related to COVID-19 that apply to the district have lawfully expired or have been dissolved.

Cross Reference:     Policy 2221 – 2221P – School Closure  
                              Policy 1400 – Board Meetings  
                              Policy 1310 – Policy and Procedure  
                              Policy 1420 – Meeting Procedure

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

Policy History:

Adopted on: 4/27/2020

Reviewed on: 9/8/2020

Revised on:

Terminated on:

**Columbus School District**

**COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1902

Alternative Grading

This policy is adopted as a temporary policy in accordance with the framework set by District Policy 1900 – Temporary COVID-19 Policies and is intended to govern School District operations for the period affected by the COVID-19 health and safety measures implemented by the School District in response to federal, state or local authorities.

Teachers will grade students as usual in accordance with established classroom or course practices during the grading period in accordance with District Policy 2420 and the Employee Handbook.

The default option for students and parents/guardians is the grade typically assigned for students in the grade level or class which may include an A-F letter grade. Students and parents/guardians may choose to receive a Proficient/Fail or P/F grade in place of a grade typically assigned for the student's courses. The P/F grade option can be requested by a student and parents/guardians no later than 10 calendar days after report cards have been sent to the parents/guardians by submitting a written request to Mr. Jim Browning, High School Principal, the School District's custodian of records.

For students or parents/guardians who request a P/F grade, the School District will record the P/F designation using a rubric in which all grades of 60% or higher earn a Proficient in accordance with District Policy 1005FE, the School District's COVID-19 Plan of Action as submitted to the Office of the Governor and/or while emergency declarations relating to COVID-19 are in place.

Students earning course grades converted to a Proficient grade in this temporary P/F option for grading periods affected by COVID-19 health and safety measures will be granted credit for the course and the credit will count towards promotion or graduation requirements and extra-curricular eligibility. Students earning a Fail designation in a course will not earn credit, will be subject to retention consideration, and, if applicable, will be subject to extra-curricular eligibility consequences.

Grades converted to P/F will not be counted toward or against class honors or valedictorian status as outlined in Policy 2410P for classes of students graduating during or after 2020.

The School District will include a designation on the students' transcripts indicating the extraordinary circumstances for any grading period affected by COVID-19 health and safety measures.

Cross Reference: Policy 1005FE – Proficiency Based Learning  
Policy 2410-2410P – Graduation Requirements  
Policy 2420 – Grading and Progress Reports  
Policy 2168 – Distance Learning  
Policy 2421 - Promotion and Retention

Legal Reference: Section 20-1-301, MCA School fiscal year  
Section 20-9-311(4)(a)(b)(d), MCA Calculation of average number  
belonging  
Section 20-3-324, MCA Powers and duties  
Section 20-7-1601. Transformational learning  
10.55.906 ARM High School Credit

Policy History:

Adopted on: 04/27/2020

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Revised on:

Terminated on:

**Columbus School District**

**COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1905

Student, Staff, and Community Health and Safety

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.

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 such time as parents or caregiver may arrive at the school 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 District Policy 1906. Staff members will be provided access to leave in accordance with District Policy 1911 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 the school for any reason including but not limited to 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 school 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 District staff to supervise students in accordance with physical distancing guidelines in this Policy.

### Physical Distancing (Boards must select option 1 or option 2)

#### Option 1

Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors will maintain a six-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.

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 the school building while on school property.

#### Option 2

To the extent possible, elementary school courses will be delivered to the same group of students each day, and the same teachers will remain with the same group in the same separate and designated room each day. If physical distancing is not possible during meal service and courses delivered in a separate area such as the library, gymnasium, and music room, the service or course will be delivered in the designated classroom for each group of students. Recess and use of playgrounds during recess are permitted on an adjusted schedule to maintain appropriate student groupings. Transportation services will be provided in accordance with cleaning and disinfection procedures outlined in this policy.

Secondary school courses will be delivered using a restructured bell system to minimize student interaction in common areas. Upon arriving in a classroom, secondary school students will be provided disinfecting wipes or disinfecting spray and disposable paper towel and time to clean their learning area or desk. Meal service for secondary students will be provided through a grab and go lunch that will be eaten in designated areas.



Parent arrival times to drop-off and pick up students riding with parents and caregivers will be staggered in designated intervals by grade level through a schedule set by the supervising teacher or building administrator.

Drop off and pick up of students will be completed in a manner that limits direct contact between parents and staff members and adhere to social distancing recommendations in the exterior of the building.

Visitors to the school authorized by District Policy 1903 will maintain a six-foot distance between themselves and others. This distancing requirement does not apply to individuals who are a part of the visitor's regular household isolation group when the group is authorized to present at the school facility.

### Face Coverings as Personal Protective Equipment (Boards must select option 1 or option 2)

#### Option 1- Required Face Coverings

This provision is required due to the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by the Board of Trustees or other local, state or federal agency, official, or legislative body. This policy is adopted, implemented, and enforced in accordance with the supervisory authority vested with the Board of Trustees in accordance with Article 10, section 8 of the Montana Constitution and related statues and regulations. The Board of Trustees authorizes the Superintendent to develop and implement procedures to enforce this policy.

The School District requires all staff, volunteers, visitors, and school-aged students to wear a face covering, mask, or face shield while present in any school building, regardless of vaccination status. The School District also requires all staff, volunteers, visitors, and school-aged students to wear a face covering, face covering, mask, or face shield while present at any outdoor school activity with fifty (50) or more people where physical distancing is not possible or is not observed. Face covering, face covering, mask, or face shield means disposable or reusable covering that cover the nose and mouth. The School District will provide masks to students, volunteers, and staff, if needed. If a student or staff member wears a reusable mask, the School District expects that the masks be will washed on a regular basis to ensure maximum protection.

Students, staff, volunteers, and visitors are not required to wear a face covering, mask, or face shield under this provision when:

1. consuming food or drink;
2. engaged in strenuous physical activity;
3. communicating with someone who is hearing impaired;
4. identifying themselves;
5. receiving medical attention; or
6. precluded from safely using a face covering, mask, or face shield due to a medical or developmental condition. The superintendent, building principal, or their designee shall

request documentation from a care provider when considering an exception to this provision for medical or developmental reasons. The School District will comply with all applicable disability and discrimination laws when implementing this provision.

When students and members of the public are not present, staff may remove their face covering, mask, or face shield if they are at their individual workstation and six feet of distance is strictly maintained between individuals. If students are working in small groups, the students must be wearing face covering, mask, or face shield

All points of entry to any school building or facility open to the public shall have a clearly visible sign posted stating the face covering, mask, or face shield requirement.

Allegations of harassment of any person wearing or not wearing a face covering, mask, or face shield requirement will be promptly investigated in accordance with District policy. Failure or refusal to wear a face covering, mask, or face shield by a staff member or student not subject to an exception noted above may result in redirection or discipline in accordance with District policy and codes of conduct, as applicable.

### Option 2 – Optional Face Coverings

Staff, students, and visitors may wear a face covering, mask, or face shield while present in any school building. The School District does not require the use of masks and will not provide masks except in cases required by this policy or at the discretion of the administration.

Allegations of harassment of any person wearing or not wearing a face covering, mask or face shield shall be promptly investigated in accordance with District policy. A student, staff member, or visitor who, after an investigation, is found to have engaged in behavior that violates District policy is subject to redirection or discipline.

### Cleaning and Disinfecting

School district 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 school building and on school property that are frequently touched. 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.

The District 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. Supervising teacher or 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 school building, so that children can clean their hands before they enter. If a sink with soap and water is not available, the School District 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.

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

### Temperature Screening

Designated School District staff are 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 the school 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 the any school 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 drinks
- Before and after administering medication or screening temperature
- After coming in contact with 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 District 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 Trustees authorizes the transportation of eligible transportees to and from the school facility in a manner consistent with the protocols established in this policy. The transportation director and school bus drivers will clean and disinfect each seat on each bus after each use.

### Public Awareness

The School District 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 the School District’s obligations to honor staff and student privacy rights. All applicable district policies and handbook provision governing confidentiality of student and staff medical information remain in full effect.

## Transfer of Funds for Safety Purposes

The Board of Trustees may transfer state or local revenue from any budgeted or non-budgeted fund, other than the debt service fund or retirement fund, to its building reserve fund in an amount not to exceed the school district's estimated costs of improvements to school and student safety and security to implement this policy in accordance with District Policy 1006FE.

Legal Reference      Governor’s Directive Implementing Executive Order 2-2021 – February 12, 2021  
Correspondence clarifying Governor’s Directive – February 11, 2021  
Article X, section 8      Montana Constitution  
Section 20-3-324, MCA      Powers and Duties  
Section 20-9-806, MCA      School Closure by Declaration of  
Emergency  
10.55.701(2)(d)(s)      Board of Trustees  
*State, ex rel., Bartmess v. Helena Board of Trustees, 726 P.2d 801*

Cross Reference:      Policy 1901 – School District Policy and Procedures  
Policy 1903 – School District Events and Meetings  
Policy 1903F – School Events Notice  
Policy 1906 - Student Services and Instructional Delivery  
Policy 1907 – Transportation Services  
Policy 1006FE – Transfer of Funds for Safety Purposes  
Policy 3410 – Student examination and screenings  
Policy 3226 – Bullying and Harassment  
Policy 3417 – Communicable Diseases  
Policy 3431 – Emergency Treatment  
Policy 5015 – Bullying and Harassment  
Policy 1911 - Personnel Use of Leave  
Policy 1910 – Human Resources and Personnel  
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:

Adopted on: 4/27/2020  
Reviewed on: 9/8/2020  
Revised on: 3/9/2021  
Terminated on:

## **Columbus School District**

### **COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1906

#### Student Instruction and Services

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, superintendent or designated personnel are authorized to implement this policy.

As outlined in District Policy 2100, and except for students determined by the School District to be proficient using School District 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.

The School District may satisfy the aggregate number of hours through any combination of onsite, offsite, and online instruction. The District 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 Montana Board of Public Education.

For the purposes of this policy and the School District's 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 the school 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.

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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 District Policy 1902.

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.

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

#### School Facility as Instructional Setting

The Board of Trustees authorizes instruction of students at the school facility 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.

All educational and related services provided at the school facility shall be completed in accordance with the health and safety protocols outlined in District Policy 1905.

#### Offsite and Online Instructional Setting

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.

The Board of Trustees authorizes the supervising teacher or district administrator to permit students to utilize an offsite or online instructional setting at parental request if onsite instruction is offered in the School District in accordance with Policy 1908.

Students receiving offsite delivery of education services may be eligible for assistance with accessibility to offsite or remote learning opportunities in accordance with District Policy 1904.

### Proficiency-Based Learning

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.

The Board of Trustees 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 Trustees. 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 Trustees authorizes the use of the proficiency determination process for students who have selected this method of delivery, students for whom the School District 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 School District 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 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 Trustees 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 Trustees.

### Student Safety and Counseling



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.  
Homeless Students and Students in Foster Care

This policy in no way limits or adjusts the School Districts obligations to homeless students or students in foster care. Applicable District policies serving these students or this population of students remain in full effect.

### Student Discipline

This policy in no way limits or adjusts the School District’s expectations for student conduct. All applicable district 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 Trustees to ensure the proactive operations of the School District 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 in the School District.

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

Policy History:

Adopted on: 4/27/2020

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Revised on: 9/8/2020

**Columbus School District**

**COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1907

School District Declaration of Emergency

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. An emergency declaration issued by the Board of Trustees authorizes the School District 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 the School Districts full entitlement of funding.

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

Adopted on: 04/27/2020

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Revised on:

Terminated on:

**Columbus School District**

**COVID-19 Emergency Measures**

1908

Family Engagement

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 for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school fiscal year 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. School District staff shall arrange for any combination of physical instructional packets, virtual or electronic based course meetings and assignments, self-directed or parent/guardian-assisted learning opportunities, and other educational efforts available to staff and students that can be relied upon for grade or credit in order to satisfy the minimum aggregate number of hours or determination of proficiency for the requesting student. Students determined to be proficient in one or more courses of the district shall be incorporated in the School District's calculation of ANB, with such ANB fraction to be converted to an hourly equivalent based on the hours of instruction ordinarily provided for the content over which the student has demonstrated proficiency.

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.

Legal Reference:       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 1906 – Student Instruction and Services  
                              Policy 1908F – Family Onsite Opt-Out Form

Policy History:

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