



March 19, 2020

SUMMARY OF GOVERNOR'S DIRECTIVE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

This afternoon, Governor Bullock released a directive providing additional guidance to Montana's public schools regarding school closures in response to COVID-19. This guidance contains two parts affecting schools:

1. Clarification on school district and employee expectations through the March 27, 2020 closures.
2. Expectations if school closures should continue beyond March 27, 2020.

Like many districts have already begun, providing instruction through March 27 is encouraged. You can read the [press release and directive here](#).

Information on Expectations During Two Week Closure Through March 27

- Requirements for pupil instruction through March 27 are waived; schools will not be required to make up this two week closure
- Districts will receive full funding, including the State transportation reimbursement, through March 27.
- Districts will use the time period through March 27 to plan and implement the following:
 - Offsite learning instruction and structure
 - School meals, consistent with what the district regularly provides
 - Services for students with disabilities
 - Other services customarily provided to students

Information on Expectations for Possible Closures Beyond March 27

- Districts will receive full funding and all requirements for pupil instruction will be waived following the actions below:
 - District creates a plan to provide:
 - Offsite learning instruction and structure
 - School meals, consistent with what the district regularly provides
 - Services for students with disabilities
 - Other services customarily provided to students
- Board of Trustees approves the district plan.
- The Governor, in consultation with OPI, approves the Board-endorsed plan and waives requirements for pupil instruction.
 - "Presumptively, the Governor will approve waiver requests that are approved by school boards." – Governor's Directive
- The District will submit periodic reports on the status of:
 - Offsite learning instruction and structure
 - School meals, consistent with what the district regularly provides
 - Services for students with disabilities
 - Other services customarily provided to students

What's next?

- With your school employees and community, develop a plan to provide:
 - Offsite learning instruction and structure
 - School meals, consistent with what the district regularly provides
 - Services for students with disabilities
 - Other services customarily provided to students
- To assist districts, MT-PEC is developing a model plan form for districts to utilize if they so choose.
- MT-PEC is developing and will publish a model status report for districts' use should they so choose.
- MT-PEC is developing a survey that will be sent to all superintendents and county superintendents requesting feedback on how Montana's public schools are addressing the four areas referenced above.
- No definitive timeline was set forth in the directive; MT-PEC will provide a recommendation to districts early next week.

MT-PEC will continue to provide assistance to districts in the coming days and weeks.