**[SCHOOL DISTRICT]**

 **1000FE SERIES**

 **FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY**

 1000FE Overview of Flexibility and Efficiency Policies

 1001FE Scanning of the Horizon

 1002FE The District’s SMaC Recipe

100 1002FE-F SMaC Analysis

 1003FE The District’s Technology Program

1004SG 1004FE Scaled Innovations

 1004FE-F Scaled Innovations Analysis

 1005FE Proficiency-Based ANB

100 1006FE Transfers for School Safety

 1007FE Multidistrict Agreements

 1007FE –F1 Model Multidistrict Agreement Form

 1008FE Increase in Over Base Levy Authority Without a Vote

 1009FE Flexible Instructor Licensing

 1010FE Early Enrollment Exceptional Circumstances

 1011FE Cooperative Purchasing

 1012FE Non-voted Levy for Excess IDEA Costs

1013FE 1013FE Adult Education

 1014FE Intent to Increase Non-Voted Levy

 1014FE-F1 Notice of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies Form

 1015FE Personalize Learning

 1016FE Independent Investment Accounts

[School District]

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1000FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Overview of Flexibility and Efficiency Policies

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Trustees has adopted and committed to a governance structure that keeps the focus of the Board on students and that increases the District’s flexibility and efficiency to maximize the District’s resources that are available for the benefit of students and student achievement through available innovations.

In furtherance of this policy, the Board has adopted and implemented the following processes:

* Regular scanning conditions that will impact the District’s intended success and the community and students served (*Policy 1001FE*);
* Developing and annually updating the District’s SMaC (Specific, Methodical and Consistent) recipe identifying practices that have created a replicable and consistent formula for success (*Policy 1002FE*);
* Developing and annually updating the District’s technology platform in coordination with the District’s SMaC Recipe (*Policy 1003FE*); and
* Annually reviewing available innovation, flexibility and/or efficiency strategies/policies, documenting the rationale for implementing certain strategies/policies and, likewise, documenting the rationale for deciding that such strategies are not best for the District and the community and students served (*Policies 1004FE-1012FE*).

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1001FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Scanning of the Horizon

At each regular meeting of the Board the agenda will include an opportunity for the Board to engage in future scanning of the horizon to identify external emerging issues and trends (what is being scanned) that are relevant (the reason the District is scanning) to the District’s and the students’ success over the coming years. This ongoing process assists the Board in identifying barriers or drivers to the District’s intended success and developing strategies for drivers to success and solutions to identified barriers to success.

The District will discuss and document ongoing anticipated changes, if any, in the following areas/conditions that will have an impact on the District and on students’ success over the coming years:

* Demographics
* Business and Economic Climate
* Science and Technology
* Politics and Social Values
* Legislation and Regulation

In examining each of these areas, the District will discuss and identify current conditions, trends and assumptions about the future (5 years).

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1002FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

The District’s SMaC Recipe

The District is committed to the development and to annually update the District’s SMaC (Specific, Methodical and Consistent) Recipe.

A SMaC recipe is a set of durable operating practices that create a replicable and consistent success formula. It is clear and concrete, enabling the entire District and community to unify and organize its efforts, giving clear guidance regarding what practices have worked and what practices have not worked in order to guide the District in making decisions and implementing practices that will lead to continuous improvement and desired success. A SMaC recipe reflects empirical validation and insight about what actually works and why.

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1002FE-F FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

SMaC Analysis

At the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District, the Board of Trustees reflected on and took stock of the successes and failures of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District over the past \_\_\_\_ years and developed a SMaC Recipe. The District discussed the following:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District’s greatest successes achieved over the last \_\_\_\_ years.
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District’s most significant disappointments over this same timeframe.
3. What specific practices correlate with the successes but not the disappointments?
4. Which of the practices associated with our successes can endure, remain relevant and last between \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_ years and apply across a wide range of circumstances to further our success?
5. What specific practices correlate with the disappointments but not the successes?
6. What insights do we have regarding why these specific practices work?
7. What can we do, collectively and individually, to avoid the specific practices associated with past disappointments?

Based on all of the above, the District developed and has continually updated its SMaC recipe, consisting of points that reinforce each other as a coherent system and codified as an expression of what best drives the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District’s successes.

The District’s SMaC recipe can be found on the District’s website.

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1003FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

The District’s Technology Program (SMaC 2)

The District is committed to the development of and to annually update the District’s technology program.

In addition to how the District effectively incorporates technology into its learning opportunities for students, staff, parents and the community, the District will analyze the following areas:

* Social Media – How the community comes together to learn about and share perspective on the District;
* Mobile Technology – How the District personalizes the delivery of information via mobile technology to different audiences;
* Analytics – How the District derives, analyzes and uses information on the community’s and public’s use of your technology to derive insights;
* Cloud Computing – How the District provides an elastic and scalable data warehouse to increase transparency and provide ease of access by your community and the public.

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1004FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Scaled Innovations

The District is committed to an ongoing process of reviewing available innovation, flexibility and/or efficiency strategies/policies, documenting the rationale for implementing certain strategies/policies and, likewise, documenting the rationale for deciding that such strategies are not best for the District and the community and students served.

The District will, on an annual basis, conduct an analysis of available innovations by using the following 4 Knowledge Based Decision Making (KBDM) questions to gain informed perspective:

1. What do we know about our stakeholder’s needs, wants, and preferences that are relevant to this decision?
2. What do we know about the current realities and evolving dynamics of our environment that is relevant to this decision?
3. What do we know about the capacity and strategic position of our district that is relevant to this decision?
4. What are the ethical implications?

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1004FE-F FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

At the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District, the Board of Trustees, using the Knowledge Based Decision Making questions, analyzed and made decisions on the available innovation, flexibility and/or efficiency strategies/policies. The following captures the District’s discussions and decisions:

Scaled Innovations Analysis

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date of Discussion | Specific innovation, flexibility and/or efficiency strategy | Decision to implement (Y/N) | Rationale for the District’s decision |
|  | Proficiency-based ANB for* Advanced learners
* Homebound instruction
* Alternative instruction during discipline
* General flexibility for families
* Flipped instruction model
* Distance learning
 |  |  |
|  | Transfers for School Safety |  |  |
|  | Multidistrict Agreements |  |  |
|  | Increase in Over Base Levy Without a vote |  |  |
|  | Flexible Licensing |  |  |
|  | Early Enrollment Exceptional Circumstances |  |  |
|  | Cooperative Purchasing |  |  |
|  | Non-voted Levy for Excess IDEA Costs |  |  |
|  | Etc.  |  |  |

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1005FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Proficiency-Based ANB

It is the policy of the District to increase the flexibility and efficiency of the District’s resources by utilizing the provision of law allowing proficiency-based ANB.

The school district has a definition of proficiency within the meaning of that term as used in 20-9-311(4)(d). The definition must not require seat time as a condition or other element of determining proficiency. The definition must be incorporated in the district's policies and must be used for purposes of determining content and course mastery and other progress, promotion from grade to grade, grades, and graduation for pupils enrolled in the district's transformational learning program.

Definition of Proficiency

For purposes of this policy, the term “proficiency” means a degree of mastery of the underlying content for a course that is reflective of a final grade, in the professional opinion of the teacher of record, of not less than a “B”.  The determination of proficiency by a teacher must not require seat time as a condition or other element of determining proficiency.

The determination of proficiency for a pupil enrolled in a course shall be made no earlier than the deadline for submitting the final grade for the course.  The determination of proficiency for a pupil not enrolled in a course shall be based on the pupil’s mastery of the underlying content of the course, demonstrated through completion of a final exam designed by the teacher of record for the applicable course with a minimum grade of a “B”.

Teachers of record have full professional discretion in determining proficiency of pupils in courses taught.  Teachers of record are encouraged to integrate trial and error into the learning process and to incorporate continued opportunity for practice and revision of assignments until a pupil reaches a performance level that demonstrates to the teacher’s satisfaction that mastery of learning expectations has been attained.

[OPTION] The District may include in its calculation of ANB a pupil who is enrolled in a program providing fewer than the required aggregate hours of pupil instruction required under Montana law if the pupil has demonstrated proficiency in the content ordinarily covered by the instruction as determined by the school board using district assessments. The ANB of a pupil who demonstrates proficiency in any content/subject matter will be converted to an hourly equivalent based on the hours of instruction ordinarily provided for the content over which the student has demonstrated proficiency.

[OPTION] The District may, on a case-by-case basis, provide fractional credit for partial completion of a course for a student who is unable to attend class for the required amount of time.

1005FE

Page 2 of 2

[OPTION] The District may waive specific course requirements based on individual student needs and performance levels. Waiver requests shall also be considered with respect to age, maturity, interest, and aspirations of the students and shall be in consultation with the parents or guardians.

[OPTION] At the discretion of the District, a student may be given credit for a course satisfactorily completed in a period of time shorter or longer than normally required and, provided that the course meets the District's curriculum and assessment requirements, which are aligned with the content standards stated in the education program. Examples of acceptable course work include, but are not necessarily limited to, those delivered through correspondence, extension, and distance learning courses, adult education, summer school, work study, specially designed courses, and challenges to current courses.

Legal Reference: 20-1-301, MCA School fiscal year

 20-9-311(4)(a)(b)(d), MCA Calculation of average number belonging

 (ANB) – 3-year averaging

 20-3-324, MCA Powers and duties

 10.55.906 ARM High School Credit

 Chapter 402 (2019) Transformational Learning Incentives

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1006FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Transfers for School Safety

It is the policy of the District to increase the flexibility and efficiency of the District’s resources by utilizing the provision of law allowing transfers of funds to improve school safety and security.

The District 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

The transfer of such funds can be for:

1. planning for improvements to and maintenance of school and student safety, including but not limited to the cost of services provided by architects, engineers, school resource officers, counselors, and other staff or consultants assisting with improvements to school and student safety and security;
2. programs to support school and student safety and security, including but not limited to active shooter training, threat assessments and restorative justice;
3. installing or updating locking mechanisms and ingress and egress systems at public school access points, including but not limited to systems for exterior egress doors and interior passageways and rooms, using contemporary technologies;
4. installing or updating bullet-resistant windows and barriers; and
5. installing or updating emergency response systems using contemporary technologies

Any transfers made under this policy and Montana law are not considered expenditures to be applied against budget authority. Any revenue transfers that are not encumbered for expenditures in compliance with the four reasons stated above, within 2 full school fiscal years after the funds are transferred, must be transferred back to the originating fund from which the revenue was transferred.

If transfers of funds are made from a District fund supported by a non-voted levy, the District may not increase its non-voted levy for the purpose of restoring the transferred funds.

Legal Reference: 20-9-503, MCA Budgeting, tax levy, and use of building reserve

 fund.

 20-9-236, MCA Transfer of funds – improvements to school

 safety and security

 [School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1007FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Multidistrict Agreements

It is the policy of the District to increase the flexibility and efficiency of the District’s resources by utilizing multidistrict agreements whenever possible.

Montana law (20-3-363, MCA) allows the boards of trustees of any two or more school districts to enter into a multidistrict agreement to create a multidistrict cooperative to perform any services, activities, and undertakings of the participating districts and to provide for the joint funding and operation and maintenance of all participating districts upon the terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to by the districts

The agreement must be approved by the boards of trustees of all participating districts and must include a provision specifying terms upon which a district may exit the multidistrict cooperative. The agreement may be for a period of up to 3 years.

All expenditures in support of the multidistrict agreement may be made from the interlocal cooperative fund as specified in [20-9-703](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/20/9/20-9-703.htm) and [20-9-704](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/20/9/20-9-704.htm). Each participating district of the multidistrict cooperative may transfer funds into the interlocal cooperative fund from the district's general fund, budgeted funds other than the retirement fund or debt service fund, or non-budgeted funds other than the compensated absence liability fund. Transfers to the interlocal cooperative fund from each participating school district's general fund are limited to an amount not to exceed the direct state aid in support of the respective school district's general fund. Transfers from the retirement fund and debt service fund are prohibited. Transfers may not be made with funds restricted by federal law unless the transfer is in compliance with any restrictions or conditions imposed by federal law.

Expenditures from the interlocal cooperative fund are limited to those expenditures that are permitted by law and that are within the final budget for the budgeted fund from which the transfer was made.

If transfers of funds are made from a District fund supported by a non-voted levy, the District may not increase its non-voted levy for the purpose of restoring the amount of funds transferred.

Examples of flexibility under this policy and Montana Law include but are not limited to:

* A district with a separate high school and elementary budget can enter into an agreement within the district;
* A district may enter into an agreement with any other school district(s) for the sharing of resources, including supplies, services, personnel, etc.

Legal Reference: 20-3-363, MCA Multidistrict agreements – fund transfers

 20-9-703, MCA District as prime agency

 2-9-704, MCA District as cooperating agency

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1007FE-F1 FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Model Multidistrict Agreement

Model Multidistrict Agreement

 This Multidistrict Agreement (hereinafter “Agreement”) is entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_  by and between identify participating school districts (collectively hereinafter “ Participating District” or “Participating Districts”).

 WHEREAS, pursuant to section 20-3-363, MCA, the boards of trustees of any two or more school districts may enter into an Multidistrict Agreement to create a multidistrict cooperative to perform any services, activities, and undertakings of the Participating Districts and to provide for the joint funding and operation and maintenance of all Participating Districts upon the terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed to by the districts subject to the conditions of section 20-3-363, MCA;

WHEREAS, an Agreement made pursuant to section 20-3-363, MCA, must be approved by the board of trustees of all Participating Districts;

 WHEREAS, all expenditures in support of the Multidistrict Agreement may be made from the interlocal cooperative fund in accordance with sections 20-9-703 and 20-9-704, MCA. Each Participating District of the multidistrict cooperative may transfer funds into the interlocal cooperative fund from the general fund, any budgeted fund, or any non-budgeted fund of the Participating Districts, except as limited/prohibited law as follows:

1. transfers to the interlocal cooperative fund from each Participating District's general fund are limited to an amount not to exceed the direct state aid in support of the respective school district's general fund;
2. transfers from the retirement fund, the debt service fund or the compensated absence liability fund are prohibited; and
3. transfers may not be made with funds restricted by federal law unless such transfer is in compliance with any restrictions or conditions imposed by federal law.

 WHEREAS, in accordance with section 20-9-703, MCA, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall be designated as the prime agency. All other Participating Districts shall be designated as cooperating agencies;

 WHEREAS, expenditures from the interlocal cooperative fund are limited to those expenditures that are permitted by law and that are within the final budget for the budgeted fund from which the transfer was made.

 NOW THEREFORE, the districts hereby agree as follows:

1. To create a multidistrict cooperative for the purpose of **incorporate purpose(s) here**;
2. To create an interlocal cooperative fund for the purpose of transferring funds from the Participating Districts for the purpose(s) stated herein;
3. The **identify the district designated as the prime agency** is designated as the prime agency and as such shall establish a non-budgeted interlocal cooperative fund for the purpose of the financial administration of this Multidistrict Agreement.
4. All other Participating Districts are designated as the cooperating agencies and in accordance with section 20-9-704, shall transfer its financial support under this Agreement to the prime agency by district warrant.
5. Any and all amounts transferred into the interlocal cooperative fund by any Participating District may come from: (a) the respective district’s general fund in an amount not to exceed the direct state aid in support of the respective school district’s general fund; or (b) any other budgeted fund of a participating district, except that funds cannot be transferred from the retirement fund or the debt service fund; or (c) any non-budgeted fund of a Participating District, except that funds cannot be transferred from the compensated absence liability fund.
6. Transfers may not be made with funds restricted by federal law unless the transfer is in compliant with any restrictions or conditions imposed by federal law.
7. Any and all amounts transferred into the interlocal cooperative fund by each Participating District must be for the purpose stated herein as mutually agreed upon between the Participating Districts in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.
8. The term of this Agreement shall be from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.\* This Agreement may be extended by mutual approval of each Participating District. However, the term of the Agreement may not extend beyond 3 years. Any remaining fund balance in the interlocal cooperative fund at year end may be carried over to the subsequent fiscal year.
9. The terms of this Agreement may be changed upon mutual written approval of the Participating Districts.
10. Each Participating District shall agree how the funds shall be disbursed during the current fiscal year by establishing a budget or guidelines. The prime agency shall adhere to this Agreement. The Participating Districts will be provided with a monthly accounting summary of expenditures from the prime agency.
11. The multidistrict cooperative may be dissolved upon mutual consent of all Participating Districts in writing upon \_\_\_ days written notice to all Participating Districts. In addition, any Participating District may terminate its participation in the multi-district cooperative upon \_\_\_ days written notice to all Participating Districts. In the event that the multidistrict cooperative is dissolved in its entirety or any Participating District terminates its participation in the multidistrict cooperative, the provisions of Paragraph 12 below shall apply.
12. Upon termination of this Agreement by one or all Participating Districts, the funds of the district or districts that no longer desire to participate in this multidistrict cooperative shall be returned to such District(s) on a pro rata share of the current funds held by the prime agency after all outstanding financial obligations have been paid with said funds to revert back to the original fund(s) from which the money was transferred as a result of said District(s) participation in the multidistrict cooperative.
13. This Agreement shall be interpreted according to and governed by the laws of the State of Montana.

As agreed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

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Attest:

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\* *Note: The term of the agreement may be for a period of up to 3 years.*

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1008FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Increase in Over-Base Levy Authority Without a Vote

It is the policy of the District to increase the flexibility and efficiency of the District’s resources by utilizing provisions in law that allow for increases in over-base levy authority without a vote through decreases in other non-voted levies.

Provided that budget limitations otherwise specified in law are not exceeded, the Board of Trustees may in its discretion increase the District's over-base budget levy without a vote if the Board reduces non-voted property tax levies authorized by law to be imposed by action of the Board by at least as much as the amount by which the over-BASE budget levy is increased. The ongoing authority for any non-voted increase in the over-BASE budget levy imposed must be decreased in future years to the extent the Board imposes any increase in other non-voted property tax levies.

Legal Reference: 20-9-308, MCA BASE budgets and maximum general fund budgets

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1009FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Recruitment and Retention

It is the policy of the District to utilize all resources available to meet the District’s objective of recruiting and retaining high quality staff focused on the individual success of each student. To meet this objective the District will utilize the flexible instructor licensure opportunities available to the District.

Flexible Instructor Licensing

It is the policy of the District to increase the flexibility and efficiency of the District’s resources by utilizing the provision of law allowing flexibility in licensure of instructors and as a means of addressing recruitment and retention of staff. Flexibilities in the following areas are available for the District’s enhancement of its programs and services with a focus on individual student success:

* Internships
	+ Available to anyone with a current license and endorsement in one subject who wants to move to a new licensed role/endorsed area.
	+ Requirements must be satisfied within 3 years
	+ Must include a plan between the intern, the school district and an accredited preparation program
* Provisionally Certified
	+ May be issued to an otherwise qualified applicant who can provide satisfactory evidence of:
		- The intent to qualify in the future for a class 1 or class 2 certificate and
		- Who has completed a 4-year college program or its equivalent, and
		- Holds a bachelor’s degree from a unit of the Montana university system or its equivalent.
* Substitutes
	+ Must have a GED or high school diploma
	+ Will have completed 3 hours of training by the district
	+ Will have submitted a fingerprint background check

 (All requirements can be waived by the district if the substitute has prior

 substitute teaching experience in another public school from November 2002 to

 earlier)

* May not substitute more than 35 consecutive days for the same teacher, however the same substitute can be used for successive absences of different staff as long as each regular teacher for whom the substitute is covering is back by 35 consecutive teaching days
* Retired Educators

1009FE

Page 3 of 3

* + School district must certify to OPI and TRS that the district has been unable to fill the position due to no qualified applications or no acceptance of offer by a non-retired teacher.
	+ Limited to employment in a second or third class elementary district or a second or third class high school district.
	+ Retired teacher must have 27 years of experience in TRS
	+ There is a 3-year lifetime limit on the retired individual going to work under this provision.

* Class 3 Administrative License
	+ Valid for a period of 5 years
	+ Appropriate administrative areas include: elementary principal, secondary principal, K-12 principal, K-12 superintendent, and supervisor.
	+ Must be eligible for an appropriately endorsed Class 1,2 or 5 license to teach in the school(s) in which the applicant would be an administrator or would supervise, and qualify as set forth in ARM 10.57414 through 10.57.418
	+ An applicant for a Class 3 administrative license who completed an educator preparation program which does not meet the definition in ARM 10.57.102(2), who is currently licensed in another state at the same level of licensure, may be considered for licensure with verification of five years of successful administrative experience as defined in ARM 10.57.102 as documented by a recommendation from a state accredited P-12 school employer on a form prescribed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and approved by the Board of Public Education. The requirements of ARM 10.57.414(1)(c)(i-iii) must be met by an applicant seeking a superintendent endorsement.

* Class 4 for CTE
	+ Valid for a period of 5 years
	+ Renewable pursuant to the requirements of 10.57.215, ARM and the requirements specific to each type of Class 4 license.
	+ 4A – for licensed teachers without a CTE endorsement
	+ 4B – for individuals with at least a bachelor’s degree
	+ 4C – for individuals with a minimum of a high school diploma or GED
* Class 5 alternatives
	+ Good for a maximum of 3 years
	+ Requirements dependent upon the alternative the district is seeking
* Emergency authorization of employment
	+ Individual must have previously held a valid teacher or specialist certificate or have met requirements of rule 10.57.107, ARM
	+ Emergency authorization is valid for one year, but can be renewed from year to year provided conditions of scarcity continue to persist

1009FE

Page 3 of 3

Loan Repayment Program

The District will assist any quality educator who meets the qualifications for the state’s loan repayment program. Loan repayment assistance may be provided on behalf of a quality educator who: (1) is employed newly hired in an identified impacted school described in a critical quality educator shortage area as defined in 20-4-502; and (2) has an educational loan that is not in default and that has a minimum unpaid current balance of at least $1,000 at the time of application.

A quality educator is eligible for state-funded loan repayment assistance for no more than 3 years and an additional 1 year of loan repayment assistance voluntarily funded by the impacted school or the district under which the impacted school is operated, with the maximum annual loan repayment assistance not to exceed:

* $3,000 of state-funded loan repayment assistance after the first complete year of teaching in an impacted school;
* $4,000 of state-funded loan repayment assistance after the second complete year of teaching in the same impacted school or another impacted school within the same school district;
* $5,000 of state-funded loan repayment assistance after the third complete year of teaching in the same impacted school or another impacted school within the same school district; and
* up to $5,000 of loan repayment assistance funded by the impacted school or the district under which the impacted school is operated after the fourth complete year of teaching in the same impacted school or another impacted school within the same school district.

Legal References: 10.55.716, ARM Substitute Teachers

10.55.607, ARM Internships

10.57.107, ARM Emergency Authorization of Employment

10.57.215, ARM Renewal Requirements

10.57.420, ARM Class 4 Career and Technical Education License

10.57.424, ARM Class 5 Provisional License

19-20-732, MCA Reemployment of certain retired teachers,

 specialists and administrators – procedure –

 definitions

20-4-501-20-4-505 Loan Repayment Assistance for Quality Educator

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1010FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Early Enrollment Exceptional Circumstances

It is the policy of the District to provide enhanced educational opportunities to students under the age of 5 when either individual exceptional circumstances exist and/or when Community-Based exceptional circumstances are present.

***Prohibition:*** *This policy cannot be used to provide what is otherwise characterized or referred to as a pre-school, pursuant to20-7-117(2), MCA, which specifically prohibits the use of state equalization aid for preschool. This policy is intended for use to enroll students under the age of 5 when statutory criteria are met.*

Student Enrollment, Exceptional Circumstances Meriting Waiver of Age Requirements for Pupils

*Note: In order to adopt this policy, the board of trustees must select one or more of the characteristics identified in either Option A or Option B.*

The administration shall ensure admission, enrollment and assignment of all qualifying children referenced in this policy. The administration shall place children enrolled pursuant to this policy in either a half-time or full-time kindergarten program as an integral part of the elementary school program. The administration shall also ensure provision of a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment possible, pursuant to terms of each student’s individualized education program, for all children enrolled under this policy who are qualified for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The administration shall include children enrolled pursuant to this policy in the district’s calculation of average number belonging (ANB) as reported to OPI.

***Option A, Student-Specific Exceptional Circumstances:******To be used when the board of trustees wants to define exceptional circumstances specific to the individual characteristics of each student or sub-group of students.***

The Board of Trustees declares the following to be qualifying “exceptional circumstances” within the meaning of that term as used in 20-5-101(3), that merit waiving the age provisions of 20-5-101(1), MCA for qualifying children under 6 years of age:

*Note: Each of the below should be considered separately for inclusion or exclusion in the Board’s adopted policy. Note: When enrolling on the basis of an individual student’s characteristics under this Option A, the District must be sure to document each qualifying student’s characteristics to ensure that criteria listed in this portion of the policy can be substantiated.*

1. A child at least 3 years of age with a disability qualifying the child for services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
2. A child who is 4 years of age or older on or before September 10 of the school year in which enrollment is to occur who:
	1. Meets the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program;
	2. Is Limited English Proficient within the meaning of Title III of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act;
	3. Is Gifted and Talented within the meaning of that term as used in 20-7-901, MCA;
	4. Is an enrolled member of a federally recognized American Indian Tribe;
	5. Is homeless as defined in 42 U.S. Code § 11302, or, as determined by the administration, exhibits other characteristics or lives in circumstances that are uncommon, unusual, atypical, rare or otherwise distinguished from ordinary or typical which place the child at risk of failing to achieve at adequate levels.

***Option B, Exceptional Circumstances Present in the Community: To be used*** *only for in-district students or homeless students under the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act* ***when the board of trustees wants to define exceptional circumstances applicable to the community’s characteristics, as opposed to the individual characteristics of a particular student or sub-group of students.***

The Board of Trustees declares the following to be qualifying “exceptional circumstances” within the meaning of that term as used in 20-5-101(3), that merit waiving the age provisions of 20-5-101(1), MCA for children under 6 years of age who are either 4 years of age or older on or before September 10 of the school year in which enrollment is to occur or who are at least 3 years of age with a disability qualifying the child for services under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

*Note: Each of the below should be considered separately for inclusion or exclusion in the Board’s adopted policy. When enrolling on the basis of demographic characteristics of the community under this Option B, The District must be sure to research and document all of the criteria incorporated into the school district’s policy that is used to enroll on the basis of exceptional circumstances.*

1. Homeless rates of the district’s pupils in comparison to statewide averages;
2. Percentage of the district’s pupils qualifying for services under The Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in comparison to statewide averages;
3. Percentage of the district’s pupils eligible for free or reduced lunch in comparison to statewide averages;
4. Average performance on standardized tests at the 3rd grade level in comparison to statewide averages;
5. Percentage of the district’s pupils who are enrolled members of a federally recognized American Indian Tribe in comparison to statewide averages.

**Student Enrollment, Exceptional Circumstances Meriting Waiver of Age Requirements for Pupils**

When implementing Board Policy 3100, the District shall follow these procedures:

1. The administration shall review the criteria set forth in the Policy 3100 and make the preliminary

determination whether an individual student or class of students meets the criteria for exceptional circumstances set forth therein;

1. The administration shall notify the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) of the administration’s

recommendation to the Board regarding the enrollment of the student(s) under the exceptional circumstances meriting waiving of the age requirements;

1. The administration shall present the information to the Board for approval within \_\_\_\_\_ days of

 making the preliminary determination;

1. In presenting the information to the Board, the administration shall either: (1) remove all

identifying information about the student(s) when presenting the information to the Board in order to protect the privacy rights of the student under state and federal law, or (2) provide the name(s) of the students(s) to the Board in a closed session with notice to the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) that he/she/they have the right to attend the closed session; and

1. The Board shall make the final decision on the enrollment of students under the District’s

 exceptional circumstances policy.

The trustees shall annually review this policy and procedure based on changing circumstances pertaining to the criteria used for determination of the program.

Legal Reference:

§ 20-5-101, MCA Admittance of child to school

§ 20-6-501, MCA Definition of various schools

§ 20-7-117, MCA Kindergarten and preschool programs

§ 20-9-309, MCA Basic system of free quality public

 elementary and secondary schools defined

 Individual with Disabilities Act Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973

 National School Lunch Act (Public Law 396, 79th congress, chapter 281, 2nd session)

 Title III, ESEA (English language Acquisition, language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act)

 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 100-77, July 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 482, U.S.C. § 11301 et seq.

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1011FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Cooperative Purchasing

It is the policy of the District to increase the flexibility and efficiency of the District’s resources by utilizing provisions in law that allow for cooperative purchasing without the formalities of the bidding process.

The District may enter into a cooperative purchasing contract for the procurement of supplies or services with one or more districts. This allows the District to participate in a cooperative purchasing group to purchase supplies and services through the group without bidding if the cooperative purchasing group has a publicly available master list of items available with pricing included and provides an opportunity at least twice yearly for any vendor, including a Montana vendor, to compete, based on a lowest responsible bidder standard.

An example of flexibility under this policy and Montana Law includes but is not limited to the Montana Cooperative Services (MCS) Program.

Legal Reference: 20-9-204(4), MCA Conflicts of interest, letting contracts, and calling

 for bids – exceptions

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1012FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Non-voted Levy for Excess IDEA Costs

It is the policy of the District to increase the flexibility and efficiency of the District’s resources by utilizing provisions in law that allow the District to levy amounts necessary to provide FAPE to resident students with special needs.

In addition to use of a tuition levy to pay tuition for out-of-district attendance of a resident pupil, a school district may also include in its tuition levy an amount necessary to pay for the full costs of providing a free appropriate public education to any child with a disability who lives in the District. The amount of the levy imposed for the costs associated with educating each child with a disability must be limited to the actual cost of service under the child's individualized education program minus:

     (A) the student's state special education payment;

     (B) the student's federal special education payment;

     (C) the student's per-ANB amount;

     (D) the prorated portion of the district's basic entitlement for each qualifying student; and

     (E) the prorated portion of the district's general fund payments in [20-9-327](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/20/9/20-9-327.htm) through [20-9-330](http://leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/20/9/20-9-330.htm) for each qualifying student.

Legal Reference: 20-5-324(5)(a)(iii), MCA Tuition report and payment provisions

20-9-327, MCA Quality Educator Payment

 20-9-328, MCA At-Risk Student Payment

 20-9-329, MCA Indian education for all payment

 20-9-330, MCA American Indian achievement gap payment

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1013FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

 Page 1 of 2

Adult Education

The Board of Trustees authorizes the establishment of an adult education program. The course offerings in such program may include but shall not necessarily be limited to instruction in basic skills, such as reading, writing, arithmetic, and other skills required to function in society, and/or any subject normally offered in the basic high school curricula of the school district.

Course Offerings:

Course offerings under the district’s adult education program shall include and be regularly aligned with and focused on the subjects required for graduation under policy 2410, and further aligned with the district's curriculum and assessment requirements, and the content standards of the Board of Public Education. The Administration shall periodically compile, update and publish a list showing the corresponding course equivalency between adult education courses and the district’s high school courses required for graduation.

Enrollment Qualifications:

The Board of Trustees authorizes the enrollment of any member of the community who is 16 years of age or older who is not a regularly enrolled, full-time pupil for the purposes of ANB computation as provided in 20-7-701, MCA, including part-time pupils subject to the limitations of this section.

Eligibility for enrollment of any part-time pupil who is 16 years of age or older is subject to the Administration’s assurances that the concurrent enrollment in high school and adult education of any part-time pupil claimed as such for ANB computation is, when combined, equal to or less than the equivalent of three-quarter-time enrollment as defined in 20-9-311, MCA.

Primary Purpose 1: Credit Recovery/Improvement of Graduation Rates

A preference for enrollment in specific courses in the district’s adult education program shall be accorded to any person:

1. Who has been previously enrolled as a pupil of the district in any of the 4 academic years prior to the year for which enrollment in the district’s adult basic education program is sought;
2. Who has failed to previously earn a high school diploma; and
3. Who is seeking to enroll in any course required for graduation under policy 2410 that the person has not yet completed.

Upon the successful completion of all missing course work required for graduation by any person enrolled in the district’s adult education program under this section, and provided the person is otherwise qualified, the district shall grant such person a high school diploma in accordance with policy 2410.

 1013FE

Page 2 of 2

Primary Purpose 2: Post-Secondary Success and Readiness

A preference for enrollment in specific courses in the district’s adult education program shall be accorded to any person:

1. Who is at least 16 years of age but who is not yet 19 years of age;
2. Who has not yet graduated and is enrolled in the high school district on no more than a part time basis or who has graduated and has been admitted by the trustees as a part time pupil pursuant to 20-5-101(3); and
3. Who is seeking to enroll in any advance placement, dual credit or concurrent credit course offered in collaboration with the Montana university system.

Option 1 on Tuition Cost, Person Pays: Any person enrolled in adult education courses under this section shall be responsible for any third party supplemental fees charged for participation in such courses, including but not limited to tuition charged by a postsecondary institution for courses granting college credit and advanced placement test fees charged by the College Board.

Option 2 on Tuition Cost, District Pays: The district shall pay for any third party supplemental fees charged for participation in such courses, including but not limited to tuition charged by a postsecondary institution for courses granting college credit and advanced placement test fees charged by the College Board

Option 3 on Tuition Cost, District Defrays Cost: Any person enrolled in adult education courses under this section shall be responsible for the first $100 per credit of any third party supplemental fees charged for participation in such courses, including but not limited to tuition charged by a postsecondary institution for courses granting college credit and advanced placement test fees charged by the College Board. The district shall pay for any third party costs above the first $100 per credit.

Primary Purpose 3: Additional Offerings for the Community Aligned with Business and Economic Trends

Additional adult education offerings may be developed in collaboration with community representatives, subject to approval and authorization by the Board. Preference in the development of such additional offerings will be provided to course offerings aligned with and designed to address identified community needs for retraining and/or professional development caused by economic or other circumstances unique to the community.

 Cross Reference: Policy 2410 – 2410P High School Graduation Requirements

Legal Reference: § 20-5-101(3), MCA Admittance of child to school.

§ 20-7-701, MCA Definition of adult basic education and adult

 education.

 § 20-9-311, MCA Calculation of average number belonging

 (ANB) – 3 year averaging

 10.55.906, ARM High School Credit

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1014FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Intent to Increase Non-Voted Levy

The trustees shall adopt a resolution no later than March 31 whenever the trustees intend to impose an increase in a non-voted levy in the ensuing school fiscal year for the purposes of funding any of the funds listed below:

1. Tuition fund under 20-5-324;
2. Adult education fund under 20-7/705;
3. Building reserve fund under 20-9-502 and 20-9-503;
4. Transportation fund under 20-10-143 and 20-10-144;
5. Bus depreciation reserve fund under 20-10-147; and
6. Flexibility fund for purposes of transformational learning.

The trustees shall provide notice of intent to impose an increase in a non-voted levy for the ensuing school fiscal year by:

1. Adopting a resolution of intent to impose an increase in a non-voted levy that includes, at a minimum, the estimated number of increased or decreased mills to be imposed and the estimated increased or decreased revenue to be raised compared to non-voted levies under a-e imposed in the current school fiscal year and, based on the district’s taxable valuation most recently certified by the department of revenue under 15-10-202, the estimated impacts of the increase or decrease on a home valued at $100,000 and a home valued at $200,000, and
2. Publish a copy of the resolution in a newspaper that will give notice to the largest number of people of the district as determined by the trustees and posting a copy of the resolution to the school district’s website.

The resolution and publication of same must take place no later than March 31.

The Superintendent shall keep the trustees informed of any changes that may have occurred, which may have an effect on the estimated change in the mills and revenue, between the adoption of the resolution and the final adoption of the budget.

Legal Reference: 20-9-116, MCA Resolution of intent to increase nonvoted levy – notice

 Chapter 402 (2019) Transformational Learning Incentives

[School District]

 Adopted on:

 Reviewed on:

1014FE-F1 FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Notice of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies Form

As an essential part of its budgeting process, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Trustees is authorized by law to impose levies to support its budget. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Trustees estimates the following increases/decreases in revenues and mills for the funds noted below for the next school fiscal year beginning July 1, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, using certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year as provided to the district:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Fund Supported | Estimated Change in Revenues\* | Estimated Change in Mills\* | Estimated Impact, Home of $100,000\* | Estimated Impact, Home of $200,000\* |
|   |   |   |   |   |
| Adult Education | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease |
| Bus Depreciation | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease |
| Transportation | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease |
| Tuition | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease |
| Building Reserve | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease |
| Flexibility | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease |
| Total | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease | $\_\_\_increase/decrease |
| **\*Impacts above are based on** current certified taxable valuations from the current school fiscal year |

Regarding the increase in the building reserve levy referenced above, the following are school facility maintenance projects anticipated to be completed at this time:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Legal Reference: 20-9-116, MCA Resolution of intent to increase nonvoted levy – notice

 [School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1015FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

**Personalized Learning Opportunities**

It is the policy of the District to create an environment and culture that supports and meets the individual needs, skills and interests of each student, provides advanced opportunities for students and supports transformational learning. As a result of the collective efforts of Trustees, Administrators, and Educators, the District ensures equality of educational opportunity for each student and have fully developed the potential of each student in District schools. In addition to other initiatives/strategies, the District is committed to the following:

1. Expanding the personalized learning opportunities for each student to accelerate in their career and college readiness, reduce the out-of-pocket costs for families and empower students to actively engage in forming successful post-secondary pathways by:
	1. developing an advanced opportunity plan for students in grades 6-12 that
		1. fosters individualized pathways for career and postsecondary educational opportunities and that honors individual interests, passions, strengths, needs, and culture and is supported through relationships among teachers, family, peers, the business community, postsecondary education officials, and other community stakeholders; and
		2. embeds community-based, experiential, online, and work-based learning opportunities and foster a learning environment that incorporates both face-to-face and virtual connections.
2. Supporting and embracing a culture of transformational learning by:
	1. developing a transformational learning plan for each participating student that
		1. honors individual interests, passions, strengths, needs, and culture, and that is rooted in relationships with teachers, family, peers, and community members;
		2. embeds community-based, experiential, online, and work-based learning opportunities and foster a learning environment that incorporates both face-to-face and virtual connections; and
		3. provide effective professional development to assist employees in transitioning to a transformational learning model.

[School District]

 Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

1016FE FLEXIBILITY AND EFFICIENCY Revised on:

Independent Investment Accounts

The Board may establish independent investment accounts separate and apart from those funds maintained by the county treasurer. The Board may transfer cash into an independent investment account from any budgeted or non-budgeted funds. A separate account shall be established for each fund from which transfers are made. The principal and any interest earned must be reallocated to the fund from which the deposit was originally made. Unless otherwise provided by law, all other revenue may be sent directly to a participating district’s investment account.

The District may either:

* Establish and use the account as a non-spending account, returning sufficient funds to the county treasurer in time to pay all claims against the applicable fund; or
* Establish a subsidiary checking account and make expenditures from the investment account, provided all transactions are accounted for and reported, as required by applicable accounting principles. If the District desires to establish a subsidiary checking account for purposes of paying for expenditures directly from an investment account, the District must enter into a written agreement with the county treasurer, in accordance with § 20-9-235, MCA.

Legal Reference: § 20-9-235, MCA Authorization for school district investment account

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Reviewed on:

Revised on: