

VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION Initial Application (two years)

Purpose: ARM 10.55.604(1) "A local board of trustees may apply to the Board of Public Education through the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement variance to an assurance standard or a section of assurance standards, excluding standards stating statutory criteria, standards pertaining to educator licensure or endorsement, and content standards as defined by the Board of Public Education and provided in guidance from the Superintendent of Public Instruction."

DUE DATE

First semester implementation; second Monday in October

COUNTY:

DISTRICT:

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Park High School

1. Standard(s) for which a variance is requested, e.g., 10.55.709. If there is a program delivery standard, be sure to list it as well, e.g., 10.55.1801.

10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff
(2) one counselor for each 400 students

10.55.710 ASSIGNMENT OF SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF

(1) A minimum equivalent of one full-time counselor for each 400 elementary (K-8) students shall be provided. The counselor/student ratio shall be prorated.

(2) A minimum equivalent of one full-time counselor for each 400 high school students (including grades 7 and 8 if high school funding is received) shall be provided. The counselor/student ratio shall be prorated.

(3) Districts with fewer than 126 students may employ or contract with a licensed, endorsed school counselor or Class 6 specialist or utilize a consortium, multidistrict agreement, or interlocal cooperative to secure these services.

History: Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, 20-2-114, 20-2-121, 20-7-101, MCA; IMP, Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, 20-2-121, 20-3-106, 20-7-101, MCA; NEW, 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; AMD, 2000 MAR p. 3340, Eff. 12/8/00; AMD, 2002 MAR p. 3309, Eff. 11/28/02; AMD, 2012 MAR p. 2042, Eff. 7/1/13; AMD, 2023 MAR p. 255, Eff. 7/1/23.

2. Describe the variance requested.

Park High School is requesting a variance of having one counselor for 438 students, instead of two counselors for 438 students. We have posted a .5 High School Counselor position and have received no applicants. The rationale: Our 2022 - 2023 Park High School enrollment was 395 students (as of 5-30-2023). One of our two counselors relocated to the Bozeman School District. According to 10.55.710, we would be compliant with one counselor per 395 students.

Our present enrollment is 438 students (as of 9-27-2023). Our variance request is to have one counselor for 438 students.

*) Please NOTE: We have 1.0 FTE counselor on staff currently!
3) we have advertised for 0.5 FTE to meet 10.55.710 with no luck; therefore requesting our current 1.0 FTE, along with all supporting services, be considered for variance acceptance.

3. Describe how and why the proposed variance would be:

a. Workable.

1. Our present counselor, Abby Kinsey, is a seasoned veteran - 22 years in education and 11 of those in School Counseling. ~ 1.0 FTE

2. PHS COORDINATED PROFESSIONAL MENTAL HEALTH STAFF:

- a. Clinical Psychologist from Livingston Health Care/Billings Clinic
- b. Clinical Psychologist Intern from Livingston Health Care/Billings Clinic
- c. Community Health Partners Parent Liason
- d. Work Based Learning Coordinator located in the PHS Guidance Office - 1.0
- e. One Montana State University Intern, LCPC for each semester
- f. L'esprit Counseling Behavioral Specialist
- g. L'esprit Therapist
- h. District Registrar located in the PHS Guidance Office - 1.0
- i. Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - Livingston Health Care/Billings Clinic
- j. Registered Nurse Master of Science in Nursing - PHS School Nurse 1.0

All positions listed, except the 1.0, are part time on the PHS campus (with office space), and are available when needed. Working in coordination with all the above, we feel we have mental health support as well as additional academic student support.

b. Educationally sound.

The academic needs of all students are met through our one School Counselor, our one Work Based Learning Coordinator, and our District 4 & 1 Registrar working in the same office full time.

We have successfully handled the beginning of the year to the present, regarding scheduling, student applications, transcripts, parent requests, etc...

c. Designed to meet or exceed results under established standards.

1. Our PHS positions - Work Based Learning Coordinator, School Counselor, District Registrar, and School Nurse - are all 1.0 and works systematically to create efficiency for all of our families.
2. The "outside agencies" are coordinated weekly to be available physically with their own office space. These positions are also available any time of the day.
3. Both internal and external resources are coordinated to follow protocols and procedures that best fit any student's needs.

d. Where applicable, aligned with program standards under ARM 10.55.1101 through 10.55.2101.

10.55.1901 SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM DELIVERY STANDARDS

- 1(a)(i) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, District Registrar
- 1(a)(ii) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, PHS Vice Principal, Special Ed. Coordinator
- 1(a)(iii) - PHS Counselor, PHS Staff, PHS Administration, Special Ed. Coordinator
- 1(a)(iv) - PHS Counselor, PHS Staff, PHS Administration, Special Ed. Coordinator
- 1(a)(v) - PHS Counselor, PHS Staff, PHS Administration
- 1(a)(vi) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, PHS Staff, PHS Administration
- 1(b)(i) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, PHS Administration, PHS Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff
- 1(b)(ii) - PHS Counselor, PHS School Nurse, MSU Interns
- 1(b)(iii) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator, PHS Administration, PHS Staff
- 1(b)(iii) - PHS Counselor, PHS WBL Coordinator
- 1(b)(iv) - PHS Counselor, PHS Administration, PHS Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff
- 1(b)(v) - PHS Counselor, PHS Administration, PHS Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff

Student input is involved in ALL standards. Student family's input when applicable. PHS admin and counselor coordinate this 11 person team to fit the needs of all kids.

- 4. Attach Board of Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees adopted the application for a variance at an official, properly noticed meeting that provides evidence that local school community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance to an assurance standard or a section of assurance standards. (Stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers, classified school staff, families, community members, and students as applicable.)**

Stakeholder groups and the individuals involved in the variance consideration:

Parent	Regina Wood
Parent/Classified Staff	Cydney Mitchell
Parent/Classified Staff	Adria Rogers
Parent/School Board	Signe Lahren
PHS Vice Principal	Becky Ayler
PHS Teacher/Certified	Julie Lentz
PHS Counselor/Certified	Abby Kinsey
PHS Principal	Lori Dust

Meeting notes summary: keep .5 position posted; maintain a pulse on how the only counselor is holding up; in support of the variance; make sure academics stay a priority; "in the moment" needs to be monitored; .5 would be nice to have; positives to this PHS Coordinated Professional Mental Health Staff concept.

CHRISTI JACOBSEN

MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

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10.55.1901 SCHOOL COUNSELING PROGRAM DELIVERY STANDARDS

- (1) In general, school counseling shall:
- (a) meet the following conditions:
 - (i) provide a comprehensive, preventive, and developmentally planned program to all students systematically;
 - (ii) develop and implement a counseling program based on data-informed decision making;
 - (iii) advocate for all students and encourage students to develop to their full potential;
 - (iv) respect the worth and dignity of all individuals by building trust and respecting confidentiality;
 - (v) value and respond to the diversity and individual differences in communities in a culturally responsive manner; and
 - (vi) contribute as an integral part of the education process that is delivered through a variety of systems by school staff, students, families, business, and industry.
 - (b) include the following practices:
 - (i) maximize students' potential in the areas of academics, career, and personal/social development;
 - (ii) develop, implement, and assess a curriculum aligned with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) national model which includes the student standards for success, mindsets, and behaviors which is presented through structured groups and classroom presentations;
 - (iii) conduct individual planning using assessment, advisement, placement, and follow-up;
 - (iv) deliver responsive services through individual and group counseling, consultation, and referral; and
 - (v) provide system support through management, consultation with staff, community outreach, and public relations; and collaborate with families, community stakeholders, and other educators to create environments resulting in positive impact on student achievement, attendance, and discipline.

History: Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, [20-2-114](#), [20-2-121](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [IMP](#), Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, [20-2-121](#), [20-3-106](#), [20-7-101](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 1989 MAR p. 342, Eff. 7/1/89; [AMD](#), 2001 MAR p. 953, Eff. 6/8/01; [AMD](#), 2023 MAR p. 255, Eff. 7/1/23.

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For questions regarding the content, interpretation, or application of a specific rule, please contact the agency that issued the rule. A directory of state agencies is available online at <http://www.mt.gov/gov/agencylisting.asp>.

For questions about the organization of the ARM or this web site, contact sosarm@mt.gov.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Signe Lahren
Board Chair Signature: Signe Lahren Date: 10/10/2023
Superintendent Name: Eldon C Johnson
Superintendent Signature: Eldon C Johnson Date: 10/10/23

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

October 10th, 2023

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Signe Lahren, Tim Sundling, Emily Fabich, Dann Babcox, Dan Vermillion, Robin Addicott, Jacey Edwards, Luke Jergenson, Tom Shellenberg, Chad Johnson, Pete Grady

Board Chair Signe Lahren began the meeting at 6:00 PM with the pledge and Vice Chair Tim Sundling read the district mission.

No Public Comment	Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda
<p>Superintendent Johnson reported on the District planning on asking the county Clerk and Recorder to hold District elections. The request needs to be in by June 1st, 2024 for the 2025 Election.</p> <p>The waterline project to the fairgrounds will have minimal impact on schools and bussing.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson will attend the county commissioners meeting to hear their discussion on the 95 mills.</p> <p>The School District received a Healthy Meals Incentive grant, with Farm to School partnering in it's implementation, which will help fund new appliances at the elementary schools and aide in healthy food production.</p> <p>MR. Johnson updated the board on the E3 emergency communications app.</p> <p>The increase in enrollment at PHS may require a budget amendment. If necessary the amendment will be presented to the board for consideration at the November board meeting.</p> <p>Graduation requirements have changed adding ½ unit of Economics or Financial Literature.</p> <p>Mr. Johnson presented the current and historic enrollment numbers at Winans elementary.</p> <p><u>Committee Updates:</u></p> <p>Finance Committee - Emily Fabich reported the fiancé committee met at discussed the tax credits. The committee is scheduled to meet again on November 7th, 2023.</p> <p>Facilities Committee – Mr. Johnson reported a facilities committee will be scheduled in the near future.</p> <p>Calendar Committee – Mr. Johnson reported the committee met and looked at a calendar similar to this year. They will look at forming an alternative calendar committee to discuss 4 day school week.</p> <p>Negotiations Committee – Mr. Johnson reported negotiations with both unions will start soon.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>
<p>Representatives from McKinstry presented on their Capitol Planning product. After board discussion the item was tabled pending further review.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and Possible Action on McKinstry Capitol Planning Proposal</p>

<p>Dann Babcox moved to approve the SIMBLI Meetings Module for the amount of \$4625 as presented in the board packet dated October 10th, 2023. Tim Sundling seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and Possible action on SIMBLI Board Meeting Module</p>
<p>Dan Vermillion moved to hold Regular School Board meetings on the First Wednesday of each month. Emily Fabich seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and Possible action to move Regular School Board Meetings to Wednesday</p>
<p>Dan Vermillion moved to approve the Park High School book purchases as presented in the board packet, dated October 10th, 2023. Dann Babcox seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and Possible Action on the High School Book Purchases.</p>
<p>Superintendent Johnson reported that the increase in student enrollment at Park High requires an additional .1% FTE to meet accreditation standards. An application for a variance to the standards is presented to the board for consideration.</p> <p>Dann Babcox moved to adopt the Application for a Variance to Standards in regards to a part time PHS Counselor as presented in the board packet, dated October 10th, 2023. Dan Vermillion seconded the motion.</p> <p>All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Action: Consideration and possible Action to Adopt the Application for a Variance to Standards Regarding a High School Part Time Counselor</p>
<p>Dan Vermillion moved to accept the items in the Elementary Board Portion of the consent agenda as presented in the board packet, dated October 10th, 2023. Tom Shellenberg seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Elementary Consent Agenda</p>
<p>Dan Vermillion moved to accept the items as presented under the whole board portion of the consent agenda as presented in the board packet, dated October 10th, 2023. Jacey Edwards seconded the motion. All trustees voted in favor of the motion.</p>	<p>Whole Board Consent Agenda</p>
<p>LEA – No Report LCEA – No Report</p>	<p>Association Reports</p>

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM