



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 a variance to a standard or a section of 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 DATES (check one)

- First semester implementation; first Monday in March
- Second semester implementation; first Monday in July

COUNTY: Ravalli

DISTRICT: Darby K-12 School District

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE: Darby School, Darby Junior High and Darby 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.**
10.55.704(c)
2. **Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**
During a community forum regarding the future of Darby School District, it was clear by a number of comments that dual-credit offerings are preferred. There were also a number of comments regarding broadening offerings for students of the school. A summary of suggestions are attached with highlighting of items that support the continuation of dual-credit classes. Minutes of the February 13, 2017 School Board Meeting are attached.
3. **Provide evidence that local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed variance. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**





Unofficial minutes of the February 13, 2017 School Board Meeting are attached. Official board minutes will be sent once approved at the March meeting. Official minutes of the April 28, 2014 Special Meeting are attached when the original administrative restructuring took place.

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.

5. Describe the variance requested.

The Darby School District currently has two full-time principals and a 0.75 Superintendent. This was a change in 2014 to ensure the district had a highly qualified math teacher who could continue to teach the dual-credit math classes. The district's other certified math teacher with a Master's degree retired in the spring of 2014. In the 2013/14 school year the district had a superintendent/principal and a full-time principal for 2.0 FTE. To make the superintendent available to teach the dual-credit math classes the administrative team was increased to 2.75 FTE. In 2014 the district had less than 30 FTE, but due to increase in enrollment in the elementary and Special Education Dept the FTE increased during the 2016/17 school year to over 30. We believe having 2.75 administrators better serves the students of our district, so we are asking for a variance to this standard. According to 10.55.704 and 10.55.705 our district should have a full-time superintendent and 1.5 full-time principals. We have more administrative FTE than required in total, and are confident all social and academic aspects of students and staff can be met under these conditions.

6. Provide a statement of the mission and goals of this proposed variance.

The Darby School District is committed to offering a rigorous curriculum to our students which includes dual-credit classes. This variance will allow us to continue offering dual credit math to our students until the other certified math teacher earns enough graduate credits to teach the dual-credit class.

7. List specific measurable objectives that demonstrate the proposed variance will meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).

The Administrative Team of Darby Public Schools will meet all required duties and responsibilities as prescribed by the Office of Public Instruction, the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Darby Federation of Teachers and Darby Support Staff in a timely and responsible manner throughout the duration of this initial variance timeline.

8. What data or evidence will be gathered to document progress toward meeting the measurable objectives?

Each spring we will review our completion of required tasks and ensure we have met all timelines and administrative duties, if needed this documentation will be provided to show evidence of meeting or exceeding the standard.

9. In what way does this variance meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s)?





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Darby students needs are met by continuing to offer dual-credit math classes. Top math students in our school graduate high school with 6 college credits. This gives them a head start in college to increase their chances of success. The variance will also ensure the well-being of all students in the district will be met by having more administration than required.

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

a. Workable.

The district has been operating effectively for three school years with a part-time superintendent/math teacher. A slight increase in FTE has not affected our ability to carry on the necessary business of the school. Having 2.75 administrative FTE gives more supervision to students and teachers.

b. Educationally sound.

Darby students have been successful in dual-credit offerings over the past three years. This variance will allow that to continue. We have enough administrative staff to ensure the needs of all staff and students will be met.

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

d. Where applicable, aligned with content standards under ARM Chapters 53 and 54.





Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Kate Dussan

Board Chair Signature: [Signature] Date: 2/22/17

Superintendent Name: Lloyd B. Rencher

Superintendent Signature: [Signature] Date: 2/21/17

Mail the signed form to:

Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division
Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

OPI USE ONLY

Superintendent of Public Instruction: [Signature] Date: 5/15/2017
 Approve Disapprove

Board of Public Education Chair: [Signature] Date: 5/11/17
 Approve Disapprove



Create a Paraprofessional Position: Ms Burnham Edmunds moved to create a paraprofessional position five hours per day. Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

Teacher's Retirement Incentive: Ms Burnham Edmunds moved to approve a teacher's retirement incentive for \$15,000 for up to three teachers. Ms Harrell seconded with correction and all voted in favor.

Out of State Trip Approval: Mr. Smith moved to approve the two out of state trips. Ms Harrell seconded and all voted in favor.

1:00 Release Time on March 29: Ms Harrell moved to approve a 1:00 release time on March 29, 2017. Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

School Board Election Resolution: Ms Harrell moved to approve the school board election resolution with a poll vote. Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

School Bus Purchase: Ms Harrell moved to approve the purchase of a new route bus. Mr Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

2017/18 School Calendar: Mr. Smith moved to approve the 2017/18 school calendar. Ms Burham Edmunds seconded and all voted in favor.

Declare January 9, 2017 an Emergency Snow Day: Ms Burnham Edmunds moved to approve declaring January 9, 2017 an emergency snow day. Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

Add Boys Junior High Tennis for 7th/8th grade: Mr. Smith moved to approve adding boys junior high tennis and making tennis open to 7th and 8th grades. Ms Burnham Edmunds seconded and all voted in favor.

Early Graduation Request: Ms Harrell moved to approve the early graduation request of Donovan Legler. Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

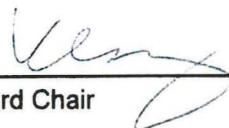

Budget Amendment Proclamation: Mr. Smith moved to approve the budget amendment proclamation. Ms Harrell seconded and all voted in favor.

Variance To Standards AdvanED: Mr. Smith moved to approve applying for the variance to standards for AdvanED. Ms Harrell seconded and all voted in favor.

Variance To Standards Full Time Superintendent: Ms Harrell moved to approve applying for the variance to standards for the full time superintendent. Mr. Smith seconded and all voted in favor.

Superintendent Report: See attached report.

Adjourn: By a motion duly made the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

	3/13/17		3-13-17
Board Chair	Date	Clerk	Date