

VARIANCES TO STANDARDS APPLICATION
Renewal Application (three years)

Purpose: ARM 10.55.604(4) "Following the second year of implementation of a variance to standards, the school district shall provide evidence to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the methods selected by the district implement, meet, or exceed results that could have been achieved under established standards."

DUE DATE:

First Monday in March

COUNTY: Lincoln County

DISTRICT: Libby Public Schools District #4

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Libby Middle School and Libby 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.

Libby Middle and High Schools requests a variance for 10.55.709, Library Media Services, 7-12.

- 2. Provide evidence that local community stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. Community stakeholder groups include parents, community members, and students as applicable.**

The trustees of Libby Public Schools met on March 1. The proposal for variance of standards was an agenda item. The plan for increasing the Librarian FTE was explained, and this process will allow to meet the accreditation standards soon. Administrative staff met on February 25 to discuss remedies and plans to meet the standards. Students as well as parents have been informed of this plan during the month of February. Staff members at LMHS are aware of the plan and are participating in a solution.

- 3. Provide evidence local school stakeholders were involved in the consideration and development of the proposed renewal variance application. School stakeholder groups include trustees, administrators, teachers and classified school staff.**

Variance to standards has been explained and the solution has been identified to staff, community members as well as administration. We are aware of problem and are working toward a solution that will meet the standards and serve the students of Libby Middle High School. In addition to our plan to meet the standards, we feel confident that students' needs are being met.

4. **Attach Board of Trustee meeting minutes that show the Board of Trustees approved the application for a renewal variance at an official, properly noticed meeting.**

5. **Reflection upon initial variance:**

a. **Describe the specific measurable objectives that were listed in the initial variance application that demonstrated how the proposed variance was to meet or exceed the results under the current standard(s).**

The initial variance requested was based on the understanding that Libby Middle School and Libby High School operate as one school. The library services are excellent and students within the school building are being served. Given the understanding that finding a .5 FTE librarian is difficult, Libby Middle High School is requesting that we a variance on standard 10.55.709.

To meet or exceed the current standards, Libby Public Schools currently has two teachers that are in the process of receiving their library endorsement. This will allow Libby Middle High School to meet standard 10.55.709 in the near future.

b. **Provide a summary of the evidence or data gathered to demonstrate that the initial variance meets or exceeds results that could have been achieved under the established standard.**

The Library Media: Program states: "The school library media program is essential in creating independent learners who are efficient consumers of information." This ability to consume information is reflected in reading skills. As we have worked at LMHS to improve out instructional systems in literacy, the library is, of course, part of that process. Given our current literacy process, we assess student reading levels in fall, winter and spring.

Students in grade 7&8 have improved their literacy rates based on the SBAC Iterim testing.

Fall - 56% Benchmark

Winter - 59% Benchmark

Students in grades 9& 10 have improved their literacy rates based on Mastery Prep ACT reading scores.

Fall - 49%

Winter - 59%

- c. **After reflection on the initial variance, describe any adjustments that need to be made to meet the specific needs of the students in the school(s).**

Libby Middle High School's library media program meets the needs of students. The current 1.0 FTE is divided equally among the students. The access to library services is not limited and there is a plan to increase the FTE in the future.

Currently staff members are working on their endorsements and are fulfilling hours of observation in the library.

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

Libby Middle High School Mission Statement:

We are a community providing educational opportunities, motivating learners, nurturing dreamers and building character.

Libby Middle High School Vision:

The schools, community, and family should work cooperatively to provide students with the necessary skills to function successfully in a changing world. The goal is to develop life-long learners who understand the world around them and who creatively participate in a changing environment.

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

Our current librarian will continue to meet the following goals:

1. Collaborate with classroom teachers and provide instruction to students on becoming efficient consumers and producers of information.
2. Establish flexible scheduling to foster learning.
3. Model and support the ethical use of information.
4. Implement a viable collection development policy.
5. Participate in school wide technology and telecommunications planning.

These objectives will be pursued by the current librarian.

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

Libby Middle High School will continue to gather data on ACT, SBAC, SBAC Interim, Mastery Prep as well as curriculum based assessments. Library visitation and use of media will be tracked. Circulation data will be tracked to ensure that adequate use of the library maintained.

Student learning data is subject to our District Leadership Team. Data is analyzed and action plans are formed on a monthly basis.

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

Since Libby Middle High School is two schools housed within one building. The ability to serve students is increased. If these two schools were not in one building it would be impossible to meet the needs of all students.

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

a. **Workable**

Libby Middle High School currently has 515 student enrolled. This is 15 students higher than the standards allow. This is an 103% of the allowable student numbers.

b. **Educationally sound.**

Students at Libby Middle High School have not experienced a shortage of acces to library and media services. During this time we have increased the access to media service with increased numbers of digital devices.

We see no negative impact of this variance.

Our District Leadership Team meets monthly to ensure that literacy and educations systems are effective.

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

This variance will allow our schools to continue to meet the library standards set forth in 10.55.1801. Libby Middle High School has worked diligently to create a system that involves teamwork and data review. We are confident that we can standards and deliver educational services that our students need.

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

Our current Library and media arts standards are aligned with the Montana Content standards. Our Library Media Specialist provides support to all classes in the implementation of Library Media standards. The Specialist provides services to all content areas as required. This ensures that these standards are incorporated in all content areas.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Ellen Johnston

Board Chair Signature: Ellen Johnston Date: 3-1-21

Superintendent Name: Ron Goodman

Superintendent Signature: Ron Goodman Date: 3-1-21

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: Elsie Arntzen Date: 5/3/2021
 Approve Deny

Board of Public Education Chair: [Signature] Date: 5/14/21
 Approve Deny

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
March 1, 2021**

The Board of Trustees of the Libby Public Schools held a Special Board meeting on the above date in the K.W. Maki Theater of the Central Administration Building. The meeting was called to order by Trustee Ellen Johnston at 4:30 p.m.

Members attending the meeting: Trustees Lori Benson, Ellen Johnston, Sam Rosling, Alida Snow, Jeff Stevenson, George Woodruff and Bgee Zimmerman; Superintendent Ron Goodman and Clerk Leslie Forster.

Others attending: Jim Germany, Samantha Hannah, Will Langhorne, Andrew Stiger and Ruth VanWorth-Rogers.

Superintendent Goodman recommended the Board approve the variance to standards application for the Middle High School Library Media. Mr. Goodman explained to the Board the reasoning for applying for the variance. Trustee Zimmerman moved to approve the variance to standards application for the Middle High School Library Media. Trustee Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Goodman recommended the Board approve Angie Goucher for the temporary LES Paraprofessional position. Trustee Snow moved to approve Angie Goucher for the temporary LES Paraprofessional position. Trustee Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

Superintendent Goodman recommended the Board approve a retainer for legal services with MTSBA in regards to construction/HVAC. Trustee Zimmerman moved to approve the retainer for legal services with MTSBA. Trustee Snow seconded the motion. Motion carried. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion.

The agenda for the Monday, March 8, 2021, regular board meeting was presented and discussed.

Trustee Zimmerman moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Benson seconded the motion. Motion carried. All Trustees present voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

The Board continued into a work session for review of Policies 1905 & 1905P – Student, Staff, and Community Health & Safety. Trustee Zimmerman reviewed with the Board information brought forth by MTSBA and Governor Gianforte. Main topic of discussion was face coverings requirements.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.


Chair Ellen Johnston


Clerk Leslie Forster