

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:

Three Forks Schools

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.

MCA 10.55.709

(1) The school library shall be housed in a central location, and each school shall have a licensed and endorsed library media specialist at the following ratio:

- (a) .5 FTE for schools with 126-250 students
- (b) 1 FTE for schools with 251-500 students
- (c) 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students
- (d) 2 FTE for schools with 1001-1500 students
- (e) 2.5 FTE for schools with 1501-2000 students
- (f) 3 FTE for schools with 2001 or more students

(2) Schools of fewer than 126 students shall employ or contract with a licensed and endorsed school library media specialist.

Three Forks Schools consists of an elementary and a high school district, all housed within one campus facility.

2. Describe the variance requested.

Our enrollment is as follows:

Elementary 362

Middle School 185

High School 251

Total enrollment: 798

Our campus contains two physical libraries:

One library serves 362 elementary students with 1 FTE

The second library serves a total of 436 middle and high school students, grades 6-12 with an additional 1FTE

We would like to be allowed our current 2 FTE Library Media Specialists to serve our students. With only two libraries, our 2 FTE are able to adequately staff our programs and serve students. We simply would not have placement or need for another librarian.

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

a. Workable.

Our schedule is designed so that both libraries are open the entire day with librarians available for student instruction and support.

b. Educationally sound.

The Three Forks Schools have two librarians currently under contract. One librarian has extensive experience and also holds traditional certification. This year our elementary librarian holds an emergency certificate along with multiple years of library experience in another district before coming to Three Forks. The district will continue to advertise for a certified library media specialist in lieu of the emergency certification.

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

MCA 10.55.709 (c) 1 FTE for schools with 251-500 students
Our elementary has an enrollment of 362 with 1 FTE
Our middle / high has an enrollment of 436 with 1 FTE

We do not separate our middle and high school for purposes of staffing and library access.

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

ARM 10.55.1801 Library Media and Information Literacy Program Delivery Standards Three Forks School District Libraries provides scheduling that ensures: *libraries respond to information needs, foster intellectual curiosity, and support learning *collaboration with classroom teachers of all disciplines to implement content area standards and to assist students in engaging in the inquiry/research process *model and support the ethical use of information, adherence to copyright laws, and respect for intellectual property. The TF School District does have both physical and digital library collections that are current, balanced and reflect authentic historical and cultural contributions of Montana's American Indians and other minority and ethnic groups. TFS also engages in comprehensive long range planning to securely administer and manage the human, financial, digital, and physical resources of the library to locate, access, and use resources that are organized and cataloged. The TFS District implements a viable collection development policy which includes policy related to material selection and de-selection, challenged materials procedure, intellectual / academic freedom statement, confidentiality assurance, copyright guidelines, and gifts and donations. The Library Media Specialists: fosters collaboration between classroom teachers of all disciplines to highlight and reinforce commonalities and links among curricular areas *cooperates and joins other libraries, encourages partnerships and participates in district technology integration. TFS meets all standards

- 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.)

The Three Forks School Board will meet and review the proposed variance on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 during a Special Board Meeting.

The meeting and topic of discussion was publicly noticed to include teachers, administrators, parents, community members, students, and classified staff for discussion and input.

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Emily Kennedy

Board Chair Signature: *Emily Kennedy* Date: 10/8/24

Superintendent Name: Rhonda Uthlaut

Superintendent Signature: *Rhonda Uthlaut* Date: 10/8/24

Email the signed form to:

OPIAccred@mt.gov

Three Forks Schools
School Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 8, 2024
5:45 pm
TFS Conference Room
TFS Website Live Feed
<https://www.tfschools.com/>

Trustees present: Emily Kennedy, Lori Sayers, Christian Potts, and Brooke Pestel; Leana Eastty arrived at 5:49 pm.

Staff members present: Rhonda Uthlaut, Alisa Meeks, Greg Heys and Lisa Malmquist; participating via remote connection: Bobby Lauver

Board Chair Emily Kennedy called the meeting to order at 5:45 pm.

Pledge

I. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of the Order of Business

Trustee Brooke Pestel made a motion to approve the order of business.

Trustee Christian Potts seconded the motion.

The motion carried, 4-0.

II. Visitors and Patrons

NA

III. Communications and Petitions

Emily received a packet of information about Indian Education For All from OPI.

IV. Public Comment period (Non agenda items and non personnel related items)

NA

V. New Business

A. Recommendation to approve submission of variance for Accreditation Standard MCA

10.55.709

Trustee Lori Sayers made a motion to approve the submission of variance for Accreditation Standard MCA 10.55.709.

Trustee Brooke Pestel seconded the motion.

The motion carried, 4-0.

B. Recommendation to approve Copper Sage Cleaning contract for the 2024-25 school year

Trustee Brooke Pestel made a motion to approve Copper Sage Cleaning contract for the 2024-25 school year.

Trustee Christian Potts seconded the motion.

The motion carried, 4-0.

C. Recommendation to approve resubmittal of Elementary FY24 Trustees Financial Summary and Elementary FY25 Budget with revised Gallatin County taxable valuation information

Trustee Lori Sayers made a motion to approve the resubmittal of Elementary FY24 Trustees Financial Summary and Elementary FY25 Budget with revised Gallatin County taxable valuation information.

Trustee Brooke Pestel seconded the motion.

The motion carried, 5-0.

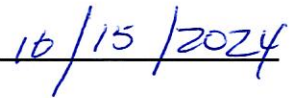
D. Recommendation to approve resubmittal of High School FY24 Trustees Financial Summary and High School FY25 Budget with revised Gallatin County taxable valuation information
Trustee Lori Sayers made a motion to approve resubmittal of High School FY24 Trustees Financial Summary and High School FY25 Budget with revised Gallatin County taxable valuation information.
Trustee Christian Potts seconded the motion.
The motion carried, 5-0.

VI. Adjournment
Trustee Brooke Pestel made a motion to adjourn.
Trustee Leana Eastty seconded the motion.
The motion carried, 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.




Three Forks School District Board Chair



Date



Three Forks School District Clerk



Date