

Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered Learning

The Missoula County Public Schools Board of Trustees recognizes and values quality instruction provided to students on campus by Montana licensed educators. Missoula County Public Schools (MCPS) campus-based education serves as the primary and preferred source of instruction for most Missoula students. The Board further recognizes that for some students distance learning is an appropriate supplemental or alternative means to provide quality educational services.

For purposes of this policy, “distance learning” is defined as: instruction in which students and teachers are separated by time and/or location with synchronous or asynchronous content, instruction, and communication between student and teacher including but not limited to online learning, blended online learning, videoconferencing and streaming video.

The District may receive and/or provide distance, online, and technology delivered learning programs, provided the following requirements are met:

1. The distance, online, and technology delivered learning programs and/or courses shall meet the learner expectations adopted by the district and be aligned with content standards and content-specific grade-level learning progressions;
2. The district shall provide a report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction documenting how it is meeting the needs of students under the accreditation standards who are taking a majority of courses during each grading period via distance, online, and/or technology-delivered programs;
3. The district will provide qualified instructors and/or facilitators as described in ARM 10.55.907(3)(a)(b)(c);
4. The district will ensure that the distance, online, and technology delivered learning facilitators, receive in-service training on technology delivered instruction as described in ARM 10.55.907(3)(d); and
5. The district will comply with all other standards as described in ARM 10.55.907(4)(5)(a-e).

The District will permit a student to enroll in an approved distance learning course, in order that such student may include a greater variety of learning experiences within the student’s educational program.

Credit for distance learning courses used to meet graduation requirements may be granted, provided the following requirements are met:

1. The program fits the education plan submitted by the regularly enrolled student;
2. Individual student circumstances may be evaluated by a team established by the building principal.
3. Permission has been granted by the principal or designee;
4. Credit is granted for schools and institutions approved by the District after evaluation of a particular course offering.
5. The District will not be obligated to pay for a student's distance learning courses, except for any course through the Montana Digital Academy in which the student is enrolled and which is required for graduation.

Cross Reference:	2410 and 2410P	High School Graduation Requirements
Legal Reference:	ARM 10.55.906 ARM 10.55.907 House Bill 162	High School Credit Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered Learning Revision of Laws relating to Montana Digital Academy

Policy History:

Reviewed by PN&P Committee on October 31, 2007

First Reading: November 13, 2007

Posted for Public Comment until January 23, 2008

PN&P Committee reviews on Second Reading, January 30, 2008

Approved on: February 12, 2008

Revised at PN&P Committee on February 29, 2012 and posted for public comment.

Approved on: April 10, 2012

Revised at PN&P Committee on August 28, 2013 and posted for public comment.

Approved on October 8, 2013

Revised at Regular Meeting on September 8, 2015 and posted for public comment.

Approved on: October 13, 2015