

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

Steve Benson  
Governor



Mike Cooney  
Lt. Governor

**TO:** Montanans, all officers and agencies of the State of Montana  
**FROM:** Governor Steve Bullock  
**DATE:** March 19, 2020  
**RE:** Directive implementing Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 and providing additional direction related to school closures.

Executive Orders 2-2020 and 3-2020 declare that a state of emergency exists in Montana due to the global outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus. On March 13, 2020, I issued a Directive pursuant to these executive orders directing the closures of all non-essential public schools in Montana through March 27, 2020, and providing that all eligible schools will continue to receive all state payments.

This Directive provides additional guidance related to school closures, planning by schools and school districts in the event of future closures, the provision of services to students during closures, and state funding for schools.

In accordance with the authority vested in me under the Constitution, Article VI, Sections 4 and 13, and the laws of the State of Montana, Title 18, Chapter 3 and Title 96, Chapter 1, MCA, and other applicable provisions of the Constitution and Montana Law, I hereby direct the following measures to be in place in the State of Montana effective immediately:

- Requirements for pupil instruction time through March 27 are waived. Districts will continue to receive all state payments during this period as budgeted and appropriated by the Montana legislature.
- Districts are expected to use this two-week period to plan and implement ways to provide students with (1) quality public education through remote learning, (2) school meals, (3) services to students with disabilities, (4) other services customarily provided to students in school, in the event there are school closures beyond March 27.
  - Districts are not required to provide pupil instruction time during these two weeks through remote learning, though, where possible, it is strongly encouraged.
- In the event there are closures beyond March 27 pursuant to a gubernatorial directive, a district will not be required to reschedule in-person pupil instruction time lost because of the closure if the board of trustees for the district approves the district's plan report that it has made up the lost pupil instruction time through remote learning, provided for meals for students, provided for services to students with disabilities, and provided other services customarily provided to students in school.
  - Districts will present an initial plan to the board of trustees for the district (school board) for approval, followed by periodic reports on implementation for approval as well, at intervals to be determined by the school board.