

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: Fergus

DISTRICT: Lewistown School District #1

LIST EACH SCHOOL THAT IS REQUESTING THE VARIANCE:

Highland Park Elementary

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.**

10.55.709 Library Media Specialist FTE for Highland Park School

- 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.**

Parents, community members, Lewistown City Library and students have been involved in the initial and now the renewal application for variances of standards. Lewistown Public Schools has a very good relationship with the City Library and its patrons.

- 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.**

Lewistown School Board of Trustees, all Elementary Principals, Elementary Teachers, including the Elementary Library/Media Specialist, and Classified Staff have all worked together with the Lewistown City Library. We have really relied on the City Library to meet accreditation standards with our Library staffing and have enjoyed the Library Patrons reading to our kids. This relationship has been invaluable to our Highland Park students.

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 extra time in the City Library has exceeded the current Library/Media Standards. Highland Park students get to enjoy another library with multiple resources and we even have our retired community read to our kids. The City Librarian has been amazing in helping our kids research and take advantage of the resources that our school library does not have. This has been an incredible partnership with the City of Lewistown and Lewistown Public Schools.

- 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 extra time for Highland Park students in the City Library have exceeded the results outlined under the established standard. Highland Park students have been introduced to another library with many resources that our school library does not have. In addition, many of our students take advantage of the City Library's resources in the summer and on weekends that without that exposure, they may never had known. All of our Highland Park students and most of their parents, have their City of Lewistown Library Pass.

- 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).**

We have made adjustments to actually increase our time at the City Library and we have added a paraprofessional to help our Special Needs students during their time in the City Library. The Lewistown City Library Staff has established strong relationships with the students and staff at Highland Park.

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

The mission and goals of this renewal variance is to meet accreditation standards for staffing and library time for our Highland Park Elementary students. Another goal is provide a different library experience for our students so they can enjoy the City Library on weekends and in the summer months. The City Library has additional staff and volunteers that create a life-long learning experience.

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

The measurable objectives of increased library staffing and library time in the City Library for all Highland Park Students for one hour each month in addition to their library time at Highland Park will exceed the results under the current standard(s).

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

Highland Park students are provided an additional one hour each month of library time under the tutelage of the City of Lewistown Library staff and volunteers. We collect data on the library activities and resources that students receive at the City of Lewistown Library. This exceeds the measurable objectives of the renewal variance.

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

This variance meets or exceeds the specific needs of students at Highland Park by providing additional library time and staffing at the City of Lewistown Library.

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

a. Workable

Every school day, we bus one classroom to the City of Lewistown Library in the morning and afternoon. In this manner, we easily exceed the standards for accreditation. The City Library is about 5 blocks from Highland Park so this arrangement is very workable.

b. Educationally sound.

We believe our kids are receiving an even better educationally sound practice because they are exposed to another library with additional resources that can be accessed in the summer and on weekends in addition to the normal school library time.

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

This renewal application for variance of standards aligns with 10.55.709 Library Media Specialist FTE.

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

Required school district signatures:

Board Chair Name: Doreen A Heintz

Board Chair Signature: Doreen A. Heintz Date: 3/3/2022

Superintendent Name: Thom J. Peck

Superintendent Signature: Thom J. Peck Date 3/3/2022

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 April 13 2022
 Approve Deny

Board of Public Education Chair: Tony L. Long Date 5/13/22
 Approve Deny

**MINUTES
LEWISTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Lincoln Board Room and via Google Meet
215 Seventh Avenue South
Lewistown, Montana 59457

Monday, March 2, 2022

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER (5:00 P.M.)

1. ROLL CALL
TRUSTEES PRESENT:
Phil Koterba, Kris Birdwell, Zane Fulbright, Doreen Heintz, CJ Bailey,
Jeff Southworth
TRUSTEES ABSENT:
Board Chair Jennifer Thompson
STAFF PRESENT:
Superintendent Thom Peck, Business Manager Rebekah Rhoades and
others via Google Meet
OTHERS PRESENT:
Sletten Construction Representatives
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3. RECOGNITION OF PARENTS, PATRONS, AND OTHERS WHO WISH TO
ADDRESS THE BOARD
There was no public participation.

ACTION

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

4. APPROVE ADDITIONAL BUS STOP AT 494 US HIGHWAY 191 – Approved Unanimously
(Birdwell/Southworth)
5. APPROVE SLETTEN CONSTRUCTION AS THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR FOR THE
ELEMENTARY DISTRICT BOND CONSTRUCTION – Approved Unanimously
(Southworth/Fulbright)
6. APPROVE RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE OF STANDARDS AT HIGHLAND
PARK ELEMENTARY – Approved Unanimously (Fulbright/Southworth)
7. APPROVE PERSONNEL REPORT – See Exhibit A – Approved Unanimously
(Bailey/Southworth)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. (Heintz – unanimous).


DOREEN HEINTZ
BOARD VICE CHAIR


REBEKAH RHOADES
BUSINESS MANAGER