



Sun River Valley Schools

- Simms High School -
- Fort Shaw Elementary -

Excellence in Education

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This guidance document is specifically designed to guide district decision-making regarding HB203 (Open Enrollment) that was passed during the 2023 legislative session. The philosophy and approach expressed below is to ensure that mandatory implementation of the open enrollment legislation within the Sun River School District is in alignment with and supportive of the District's Strategic Plan.

LRSP Open Enrollment Philosophy and Approach Statements:

- The district is neither supportive of nor opposed to open enrollment as a concept. The legislation was passed during the 2023 session and SRVS will implement the legislation as required by MT law.
- The District's core purpose applies to all enrolled students regardless of a student's District of residence. Student success extends to all students enrolled in Ronan School District.
- The district operates most efficiently (maximizing resources for all students) when school sites maximize the use of available classrooms.
- The District will manage open enrollment to help bring available classrooms into use with the following parameters:
 - Class sizes articulated in Montana Accreditation Standards will guide classroom capacity in all grades. Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55.712 states the following class sizes:
 - In single grade rooms, the maximum class size shall be:
 - (a) no more than 20 students in kindergarten and grades 1 and 2;
 - (b) no more than 28 students in grades 3 and 4;
 - (c) no more than 30 students in grades 5 through 8.
 - In multi-grade classrooms, the maximum class size shall be:
 - (a) no more than 20 students in grades K, 1, 2, and 3;
 - (b) no more than 24 students in grades 4, 5, and 6;
 - (c) no more than 26 students in grades 7 and 8.
 - Staffing (Recruitment/Retention) may impact the District's ability to open all available classrooms.
 - The District shall ensure appropriate classroom space is set aside and designated for Special Education, Intervention/Extension and expected/projected K-12 resident student growth.
 - The District shall ensure that appropriate classroom space is designated for HB352 Early Literacy 4-year-old programming needs.

- District Policy 3141 for Out-of-District Student Enrollment shall be constructed in a fashion to:
 - Aid the District in timelines to establish who is leaving and who is coming as early as possible in the spring enrollment process.
 - Prioritize in-district students in timelines and process, and then consider out-of-district requests for attendance.
 - Prioritize applications from students whose parents are employees of the District.
 - Prioritize applications of students with siblings who are currently enrolled in the District as nonresident students.
- The Board shall approve an application for out-of-district unless the trustees find the impact of approval of the application will negatively impact the quality of education for resident students by grade level, by school, or in the District in one or more of the following ways:

The approval would result in exceeding the limits of:

- a. Building construction standards pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 60, MCA;
- b. Capacity and ingress and egress elements, either by individual room or by school building of any fire code authorized by Title 50, Chapter 3, MCA; or
- c. Evacuation elements of the District's adopted school safety plan.

The approval would impede meeting goals, standards, or objectives of quality that the trustees have previously adopted in a plan for continuous educational improvement required under the rules adopted by the Board of Public Education.

The approval would risk jeopardizing the educational quality within the District because the out-of-district student applying was:

- a. Truant as defined in MCA § 20-5-106 in the last school district attended;
 - b. Expelled by another school district at any time; or
 - c. Suspended in another school district in any of the three (3) school fiscal years preceding the school fiscal year for which attendance is requested. This subsection (c) does not apply to a student eligible for special education or related services.
 - d. Not on-track for graduation.
- The District recognizes that the tuition structures in place via the open enrollment system established in HB203 do not fully account for the resident taxpayer costs associated with funding. As such, the District may also prioritize applications based upon the anticipated obligations of resident taxpayers.