



June 17, 2020

Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen created the Montana Learn 2020 and Montana Flex 2020 Task Forces to assist in developing K-12 public schools re-opening guidelines for the 2020-2021 school year. Superintendent Arntzen has consistently shared that the new normal in Montana's K-12 schools will look different as a result of COVID-19. She has begun organizing the internal and external flexibilities the OPI and schools will need to serve students in this new environment.

In May and June, 2020, the Task Forces met to draft school re-opening guidance that is reflective of safety factors, family needs, student learning, and teacher professional development. The guidance is intended to reflect the flexibility necessary for local control and decision-making while providing a framework of options for local communities.

The final recommendations from the Task Forces were presented to the Montana School Safety Advisory Committee on June 12th for inclusion in broader state guidance documents for schools that will be available by the end of June.

MT Learn 2020 Task Force:

Consisting of parents, students, teachers, school leaders, and community members, this task force met four times to draft recommendations around:

- Academic Programming
- Physical and Structural Safety
- Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Support

MT Flex 2020 Task Force:

Consisting of school leaders, the Board of Public Education, and state education associations, this task force met three times to draft recommendations around:

- Strengthening existing policy flexibility
- Evaluating progress and impact of state graduation, credit, funding, licensure and accreditation policies
- Maximizing flexibilities in assessment, accountability and reporting systems
- Fostering and supporting local innovation
- Leveraging federal flexibilities and resources

Montana School Safety Advisory Committee:

This standing committee consists of OPI health officials, state education associations, and state and local health and emergency response personnel.

More information including task force membership can be found at:

<http://opi.mt.gov/Families-Students/School-Topics/Re-Opening-Schools-Task-Forces>