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Question of the Week - MTSBA Model Emergency Policy Series status

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Question: What is the status of the MTSBA Model Emergency Policy Series?

Response: Local boards of trustees have the authority to terminate the Emergency Policies at any time in order to reflect district practices. The Emergency Policies were initially distributed to districts in March 2020 to temporarily guide district operations and delivery of instruction during the period of emergency. Model Policy 1900 states the policies are in effect until terminated by a vote of the board of trustees:

School District Policies Numbered 1900-1999 are intended to govern during any emergency related to COVID-19 declared by the President, Congress, Montana Legislature, Governor, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, County Health Department, or the Board of Trustees. The term of School District Policies Numbered 1900-1999 shall run until terminated by a vote of the board of trustees.

In anticipation of the termination of these temporary emergency policies, MTSBA has adjusted standard policies within the MTSBA Model Policy Manual over the course of the last 12 months to reflect areas of need. By including these provisions in the standard MTSBA Model Policy Manual, the revised policies help prepare districts for future emergencies while ensuring policy coverage on important topics if the board decides to terminate a temporary 1900 Emergency Policy. These adjustments to the standard MTSBA Model Polices include updates in the following subject areas:

Student Instruction – Addressing topics covered in Emergency Policies 1902, 1906, and 1908

Model Policy 2050 – Student Instruction Innovations

Model Policy 2167 – Correspondence Courses

Model Policy 2168 – Online and Distance Learning

Model Policy 2170 – Digital Academy

Model Policy 3100 – Early Enrollment for Exceptional Circumstances

Model Policy 3121 – Enrollment and Attendance Records

Student Health and Safety – Addressing topics covering Emergency Policies 1903 and 1905

Model Policy 3413 – Student Immunization

Model Policy 3417 – Communicable Diseases

Staff Absences, Conduct, Health, and Safety – Addressing Topics covered in Emergency Polices 1903, 1905, 1909, and 1910

Model Policy 5230 – Prevention of Disease Transmission

Model Policy 5130 – Staff Health

Model Policy 5223 – Personal Conduct

Model Policy 5321 – Leaves of Absence

District Operations - Addressing topics covering in Policies 1900, 1901, 1903, 1907, and 1911

Model Policy 1310 - District Policies and Procedures

Model Policy 2221 – School Emergencies and Closures

Model Policy 4330 – Community Use of Facilities

Model Policy 8131 – Indoor Air Quality

Model Policy 8301 – District Safety

Model Policy 8303 – Cleaning and Disinfecting

If a 1900 Emergency Policy is terminated, a district's ESSER Safe Return to School and Continuity of Services Plan should be adjusted to replace the identified 1900 policy with the corresponding updated Model Policy. This will ensure the adopted Plan is consistent with the district's actual practices and operations as required by ESSER. The policies identified in the Plan should be in effect in some form or the Plan should be revised to reflect current practice and policy. Finally, the updates to the MTSBA Model Policies do not include language on face coverings so if a district needs assistance on that issue it should contact MTSBA for guidance.

Districts that participate in the MSTBA Policy Maintenance Program should inform MTSBA staff right away of any changes to the district's Emergency Policies to ensure the manuals posted on [MTSBA.org](https://www.mtsba.org) are accurate.

The COVID-19 emergency has led to necessary updates within the MTSBA Model Policy Manual. The full manual, with the new updates, continues to be an important resource for each member district of MTSBA. The model policies help elected boards, working in collaboration with staff, families, and the communities, serve the best interests of each child in every public school.

If there are any questions about a specific emergency policy and possible amendments or termination procedures, MTSBA can assist in identifying useful solutions. Please contact the [MTSBA Policy Services staff](#) if we can be of any help.

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