

CREATING
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR STUDENTS TO
KEEP WYOMING
STRONG



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MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-040

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
DATE: March 16, 2020
SUBJECT: Temporary K-12 Block Grant Guidance

TEMPORARY K-12 BLOCK GRANT GUIDANCE

The times we find ourselves in are unprecedented. We have statutes, rules, policies, contingencies, and practices in place for “normal” disruptions and crises, not a pandemic. While Governor Gordon and I recommended school closure to students through April 3, we recognize that this date is currently only a placeholder. From moment to moment, we are balancing a range of needs from the health of our families to ensuring continued education to students and funding to schools.

We are not able to answer all questions now. As we move forward we recognize there is a spectrum of issues and potential solutions. Additional guidance from me or the Governor, the federal government, or even a special session of the legislature may be in order.

In an effort to grant school districts maximum flexibility in responding to these challenges, I am exercising my authority under W.S. 21-13-307(a) (ii)(B) to hold districts harmless from daily proportional reduction of block grant funding due to school closures. I am approving all school closures occurring on school calendar days from March 16 to April 3, 2020 for this purpose. This action is necessary for public health, safety, and welfare.

This waiver will reduce the 185 days of required operational days and the 175 required instructional days by the number of days that are currently calendared through April 3. I will continue to evaluate and monitor the current situation to determine if additional approvals are necessary.