

1 **Browning Public Schools**

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3 **Policy #4013**

4 Policy Name: *School Closure*

5 Regulation:

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7 The Superintendent may order closure of schools in the event of extreme weather or other emergency, in  
8 compliance with established procedures for notifying parents, students, and staff.

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10 The Board of Trustees is authorized to declare that a state of emergency exists within the community. A  
11 declaration issued by the Board of Trustees is distinct from any declaration in effect or previously issued  
12 by local, state or federal authorities. An emergency declaration issued by the Board of Trustees  
13 authorizes the School District to take extraordinary measures to protect students and staff while delivering  
14 education services in a manner authorized by law. The method and location of instruction and related  
15 educational services shall be implemented in a manner that serves the needs of students, their families,  
16 and staff and preserves the School District’s full entitlement of funding.

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18 The trustees may order the emergency closure of schools for one (1) school day each year, without the  
19 need to reschedule the lost pupil instruction time when the closure is the result of an emergency. The 1-  
20 school-day closure under this subsection is not subject to the reduction in BASE aid pursuant to Section  
21 20-9-805, MCA.

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23 In the event of a declared emergency, the School District shall avail itself of all flexibilities allowed by  
24 law, rule, or regulation and shall be otherwise governed by the school finance laws and rules of the state  
25 of Montana. The School District shall comply with auditing requirements and reserves the authority to  
26 assert its rights to manage school district funds or seek state and federal funds in a manner consistent with  
27 the full flexibility available under all applicable laws.

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29 If a declaration of emergency is declared by the Board of Trustees, it may later adopt a resolution that a  
30 reasonable effort has been made to reschedule the pupil-instruction time lost because of the unforeseen  
31 emergency. If the trustees adopt the resolution, the pupil-instruction time lost during the closure need not  
32 be rescheduled to meet the minimum requirement for aggregate hours that a school district must conduct  
33 during the school year in order to be entitled to full BASE aid. At least 75% of the pupil-instruction time  
34 lost due to the unforeseen emergency must have been made up before the trustees can declare that a  
35 reasonable effort has been made.

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37 For the purposes of this and related policies, "reasonable effort" means the rescheduling or extension of  
38 the school district's instructional calendar to make up at least 75% of the hours of pupil instruction lost  
39 due to an unforeseen emergency through any combination of the following as outlined in accordance with  
40 Policies 2050 and 2100:

- 41 (a) extending the school year beyond the last scheduled day;
- 42 (b) the use of scheduled vacation days in the district's adopted school calendar
- 43 (c) the conduct of pupil instruction on Saturdays;
- 44 (d) extending instructional hours during the school day.

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46 **Cross Reference:** 2100 School Calendar and Day  
47 2050 Student Instruction  
48 8110 Bus Routes and Schedules

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50 **Legal Reference:** Section 20-9-801-802, MCA Emergency School Closure

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Section 20-9-806, MCA School closure by declaration of emergency  
Section 20-9-805, MCA Rate of reduction in annual apportionment entitlement.

**Policy History:**

Adopted on: 11/30/21

Reviewed on: 10/12/21, 11/9/21

Revised on: