TO: **Trustees, East Helena Schools**

FROM: **Dan Rispens, Superintendent**

BOARD MEETING: **May 11, 2026**

RE: **Student Enrollment (May 4, 2026)**

School	Grade Level	To Date	Month Ago	Year Ago
Eastgate	Age-K	47	47	51
	K	141	141	116
EG Total		**[188]**	**[188]**	**[167]**
Prickly Pear	1	128	128	127
	2	131	131	150
Prickly Pear Total		**[259]**	**[259]**	**[277]**
Radley Elementary	3	155	157	147
	4	157	156	147
	5	148	150	134
Radley Total		**[460]**	**[463]**	**[428]**
East Valley	6	144	145	152
Middle School	7	142	142	151
	8	144	144	166
EVMS Total		**[430]**	**[431]**	**[469]**
East Helena High	9	166	168	142
	10	124	124	138
	11	122	124	131
	12	119	119	118
EHHS Total		**[531]**	**[535]**	**[529]**
EVMS 227	6	2	2	11
	7	15	16	10
	8	14	14	10
EVMS 227 Total		**[31]**	**[32]**	**[31]**
EHHS 227	9	12	12	8
	10	18	19	22
	11	19	20	15
	12	19	19	15
EHHS 227 Total		**[68]**	**[70]**	**[60]**
TOTALS		**1967**	**1978**	**1961**

School Board Report
May 11th, 2026

Chairman Walter and Trustees,
Here are some monthly items to share with you.

LittleLante Update
We wrapped up our assessments for potential LittleLantes on April 20th. 53 students qualified and we will move forward with 3 sections for the following school year. Out of those 53 students, 6 are out of district.

Kindergarten Parent Night
Our Kindergarten Parent Night is scheduled for May 19th. Although this event is relatively short, about an hour in length, it is incredibly beneficial for numerous reasons. Our parents get the opportunity to see our school and meet all of our teachers and are then provided insight into what kindergarten looks like at Eastgate. Our wonderful kindergarten teachers provide mini sessions that inform parents on math instruction, reading instruction, how our interventions are structured and some "odd and end" pieces that make up the positive culture and dynamic at Eastgate. This year, Mrs. Simonson, Mrs. Wilson, and Mrs. Hansen will be providing information on math. Mrs. Haas, Mrs. Salerno, and Ms. Beck will review reading and interventions. Mrs. Ophus, Mrs. Warner, and Ms. Laura will review other items that help make Eastgate a great community.

Wellness Week
Our Wellness Week was implemented to continue to encourage all to be healthy and active. Part of this is having students walk laps towards different goals. We set different tiers of goals with different incentives. I look forward to seeing which of our students earn pajama days and special recess as well as which of our staff will have the honor of kissing a pig and being taped to the wall!

Character Strong - Anti-Bullying
Throughout the month of April and into May, I have been meeting with teachers to review their professional goals and data that coincides with their goals. Many of our teacher's goals have had a form of Character Strong implementation in them. As a school system (LittleLantes through 2nd grade), we have seen a positive impact on our students, staff, and system using Character Strong. Next year, our Olweus Committee will be working through the anti-bulling components that are featured in Character Strong to determine if we want to shift to Character Strong as our anti-bullying program in effort to streamline our goals.

Upcoming Events
- May 19th - Kindergarten Parent Night
- May 25th - Memorial Day
- June 3rd - Last Day at Eastgate
- June 4th and 5th - SY26/27 Kindergarten Screeners
- June 9th - Early Release and Last Day of School!

Thank you!
Brandon Crusat, Eastgate and Prickly Pear Elementary Principal

Month	Gen. Insap./Defiance	Playground	Fighting/Physical Contact	Bus	Weapons	Vandalism	Threat	Bullying	Harassment	Profanity	Total
September											0
October	15	1	5								21
November	2	1	1								4
December	7	6									13
January	3										3
February	3	1	2								6
March	6	3	2							1	12
April	5		4								10
May	7		10								17
June											0
Total	49	12	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	96

Month	Warning	Time Out	Conference	Parent Call	Bus Sus.	Alt. Recess	OSS	ISS	CSCT	Total
September										0
October			21	21		14	3	3	1	63
November			4	4		4				12
December		1	13	13		11		1		39
January			3	3		3				9
February			6	6		6				18
March		4	12	12		7		1		36
April		3	10	10		7				30
May		5	17	17		10		2		51
June										0
Total	0	13	86	86	0	62	3	7	1	258

Eastgate Elementary

Month	Gen. Innap./Defiance	Playground	Fighting/Physical Contact	Bus	Weapons	Vandalism	Threat	Bullying	Harassment	Profanity	Total
September											0
October	7	4	7							2	20
November	1	1	7	2	1					2	14
December	4	4	4	1							13
January	3	1	3								7
February	6	6	7							3	22
March	4	2	9								15
April	3		9							2	14
May	1	8	9								18
June											0
Total	29	26	55	3	1	0	0	0	0	9	123

Month	Warning	Time Out	Conference	Parent Call	Bus Sus.	Alt. Recess	OSS	ISS	CSCT Referral	Total
September										0
October		3	20	20		13		4		60
November			14	14	2	7	3	2		42
December		1	13	13	1	8	1	2		39
January			7	7		4		3		21
February			22	22		18	2	4		68
March			15	15		9	2	4		45
April			14	14		10		4		42
May			18	18		11	2	5		54
June										0
Total	0	4	123	123	3	80	10	28	0	371

Prickly Pear Elementary

EAST HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. 9 • PO Box 1280 • East Helena • Montana • 59635

Superintendent/Administration Office (406) 227-7700
Eastgate Elementary (406) 227-7770, grades pre & K
Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720, grades 1-2
Radley Elementary (406) 227-7710, grades 3-5
East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740, grades 6-8
East Helena High School (406) 227-7730, grades 9-12

SUCCESS FOR ALL

May 11, 2026 Radley Elementary Board Report Gus Somerfeld

- Class lists for the SY 2026-2027 are finalized. I will be taking one final peek at them prior to assigning each list a teacher. Our staff was very thoughtful and meticulous about the process in trying to develop well balanced classes. On June 5, our school will participate in our annual FLY-UP Day where students will get to meet their new teacher for next school year.

- MAST statewide assessment has concluded. It appears the OPI will create a study team to evaluate the results to help create cut scores and proficiency marks for the coming year. Once established, state report cards should resume in a similar fashion when using SBAC as our state accountability testing. We will begin our final Spring school benchmark assessment later this month. Assessment only shows a snapshot of our students abilities, but does prove to be met with anticipation to see our students' growth from August through May. I will share results at the next board meeting.

- Radbration has been running for four years now. It's organized by Mrs. Senecal and our teachers, where a teacher or pair of teachers organize a fun activity to house any student 3rd-5th. Each student gets to select two activities to participate in. We have everything from a petting zoo, making ice cream through science, to a nature walk and everything in between. The PTO has been gracious enough to once again provide financial support to purchase materials for the activities.

- Jumpstart and SummerPALS program's planning is nearly finalized. We have 133 confirmed students participating. Now, our leadership team will continue to coordinate master schedules, field trips, swim lessons, and STEM group challenges.

- Upcoming Events:
  - May 12 - 4th Grade Agriculture Day
  - May 18 - 5th Grade Band Concert @ EHHS
  - May 19 - 4th Grade to Gates of the Mountains
  - May 26 - ⅓ of 4th Grade to Prickly Pear Creek (Water Watchers)
  - May 27 - Grade Level Talent Shows
  - May 28 - ⅓ of 4th Grade to Prickly Pear Creek (Water Watchers)
  - May 29 - Schoolwide Talent Show
  - June 1 - School Family Assembly
  - June 3 - 5th Grade to movie Downtown

❖ Discipline Report

April Resolution Resolution Data				
Total Resolutions	**Total Students**	**3rd Grade**	**4th Grade**	**5th Grade**
34	25	16	16	2
Before Class	**After Class**	**During Passing**	**During Lunch/Recess**	**During Class**
4	3	4	11	13
Classroom	**Cafeteria**	**Hallway/Stairs/Gym**	**Restroom**	**Playground**
14	4	3	3	10

Year to Date Resolutions				
Total Resolutions	**Total Students**	**3rd Grade**	**4th Grade**	**5th Grade**
381	105	190	157	34
Before Class	**After Class**	**During Passing**	**During Lunch/Recess**	**During Class**
25	19	31	108	134
Classroom	**Cafeteria**	**Hallway/Stairs/Gym**	**Restroom**	**Playground**
150	24	31	15	121

2025-2026 --- Radley Discipline Report

TYPE of REFERRAL

	General Misbehavior	Open Defiance	Fighting or Intent to Harm	Bullying	Bus Discipline	Chronic Minor Behavior	Weapons or Substances	Vandalism	Threat or Intimidation	Theft	Harrassment	Profanity	monthly totals
September	15	13	7	1		5		2	5		6	1	55
October	8	20	15	2	1	7			7		5		65
November	8	10	7			2			8	1	2	1	39
December	3	18	5	2		5			3	1	7	1	45
January	13	22	4			2		1	2	3	5	1	53
February	15	30	5	1		10		3	4	3	2		73
March	4	6	2			2			2		1	2	19
April	5	13	5			4			4	1	3	1	36
May/June													0
total	71	132	50	6	1	37	0	6	35	9	31	7	385

CONSEQUENCES

	Warning	Time out	Work Detail	Conference	Parent Meeting	Bus Suspension	Recess Det.	Lunch Detention	Detention	**ISS	***OSS	Alternative	monthly totals
September	3	5	1	1	1	1	16	4		9	3	11	55
October	2	4		1	3	1	15	2		23	9	5	65
November		1	1		2		7			10	8	10	39
December	1	2		3	2		21	4		3	9		45
January		4			8		11			15	4	11	53
February		3	1		5		12	1		22	16	13	73
March	2	3					7	1		4	2		19
April		6	1		4		2			16	3	4	36
May/June													0
total	8	28	4	5	25	2	91	12	0	102	54	54	385

* Every office discipline referral results in a parent phone call, at a minimum.
** In-School Suspension
*** Out of School Suspension

East Valley Middle School

Success for All Students

EVMS April Board Report

Academics:

We are finally done with MAST testing. Currently, we are going through grades. Students who are needing to do summer school will be finishing up the regular school year on June 4th (6th/7th) or June 3rd (8th).

Activities:

Track finished up last week. It was a fun season with lots of highlights. The 7/8th grade meet here in East Helena was a big one. We had 14 teams join us Thursday, March 30th. Although it was long, going past 9pm, it was cool to give the students the experience of performing under the lights.

Upcoming Events:

- May 18~ 5th and 6th Grade Band Meeting
- May 25~ **No School**
- May 26~EVMS Band/Choir Concert
- May 29~EHHS Graduation

Behavior: This month had a big focus on threats. It started out with a student telling another student he placed a bomb in the school. Later in the month, a few other kids decided to make statements about bombs in the school. I think we are back on the track of figuring out where students are hiding vapes. This has helped in recovering a few more this month. Cell phones continue to be a work in progress as the number of infractions have not really dropped.

2025-26 Referrals	Referrals	Detentions	2024-2025 Referrals
August	2		
September	89	26	46
October	99	28	89
November	73	24	49
December	78	17	53
January	109	30	77
February	67	20	85
March	70	26	71
April	88	37	98

	Gen. Inapp. Beh	Open Defiance	Fighting	Bullying	Bus Discipline	Chronic Refocus	Weapons
August							
September	11	4	2	2	2	22	1
October	20	8	8	3	2	14	2
November	12	11		2		8	1
December	9	8	3	2	1	9	
January	8	11	2	5	3	22	
February	6	11	1	2	3	9	1
March	12	7	2	2	3	4	
April	8	9	3	3	1	6	

	Vandalism	Threat/Intimi	Theft	Harassment	Assult	Disruption	Drugs/Tobacco/A	Cell Phone
August				1		1		
September		2		8		19	3	14
October	1	3	1	6	3	19	4	7
November		2		3	2	24		8
December	4	1	1	6	2	20		12
January		3		4	1	38	1	10
February	2	1		5	1	21		5
March	1	1	2	4	1	24	1	10
April	1	4	3	5		35	3	10

Consequences

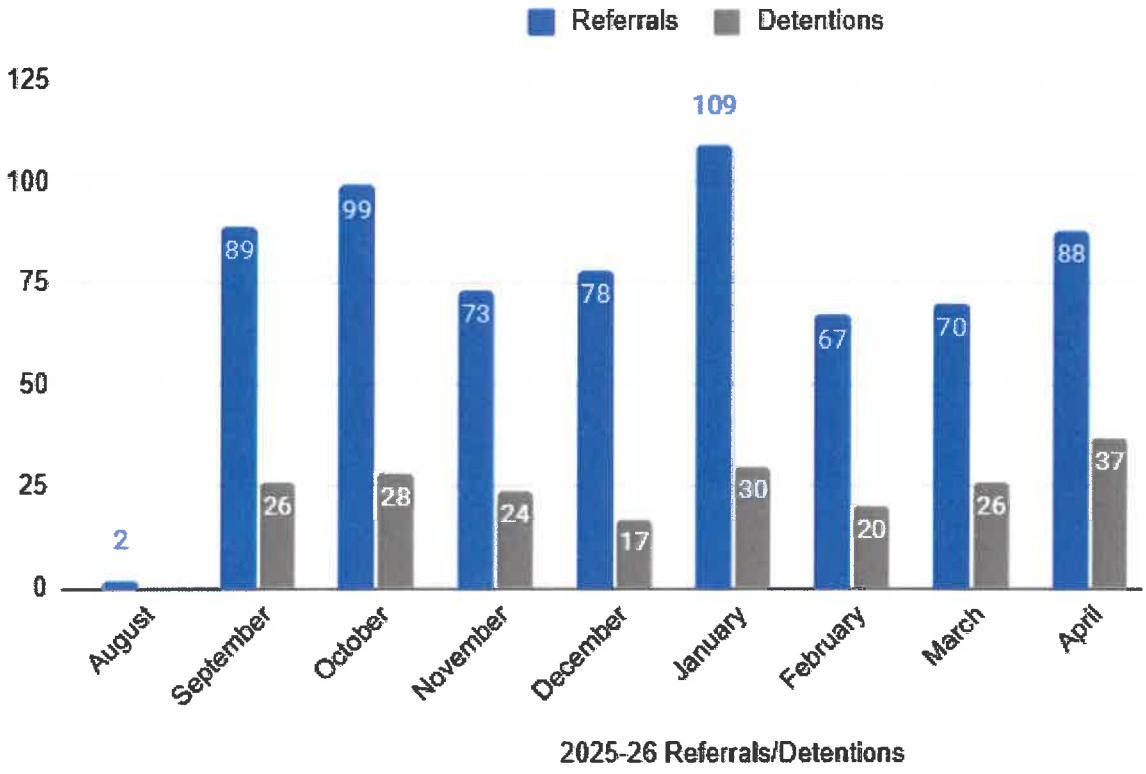


	Warning	Intervention	Other	Parent Meeting	Lunch Det.	Detention	Parent Call	***OSS	Bus Suspensio
August			1				1		
September	20	1	9	2	19	26	6	17	
October	9	4	12		21	28	4	37	
November	2	2	19		19	24	3	12	
December	2	3	13	1	33	17	3	14	
January	3	8	20		42	30	8	14	
February	2	3	5		28	20	5	13	
March	5	4	17		12	26	3	19	1
April	10	2	12		28	37	3	17	1

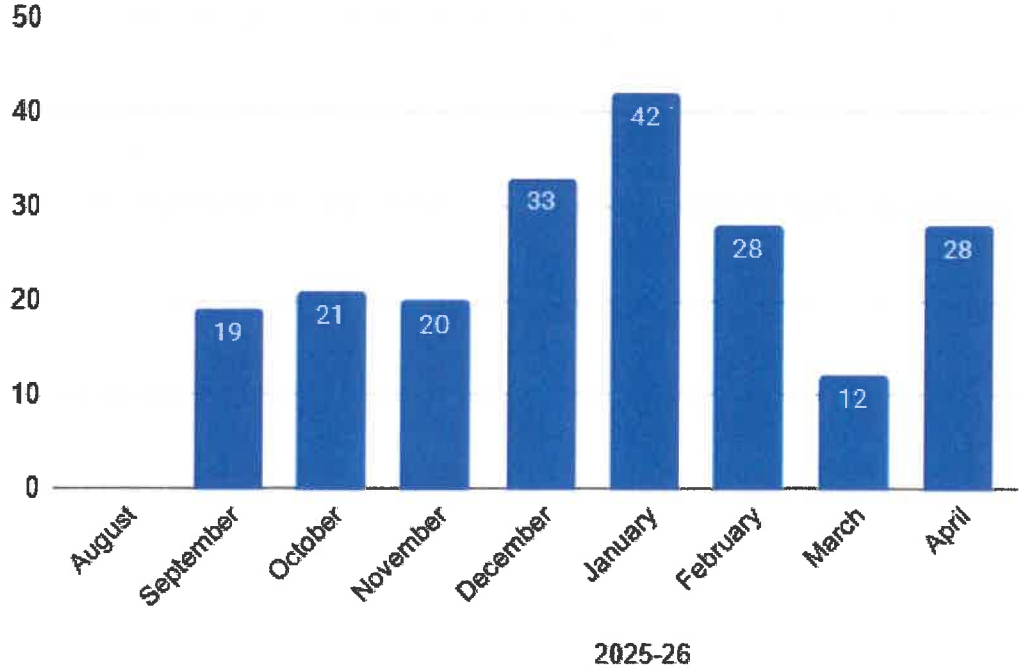
By Grade	Aug.	Sept.	Oct	Nov.	Dec	Jan	Feb.	March	Apil
6th Grade			13	15	10	23	32	12	17
7th Grade			14	31	31	11	17	14	17
8th Grade		2	75	70	44	53	79	48	50

Location	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April
Classroom		1	68	65	58	60	90	51	52
Hallway		1	8	17	5	6	6	6	10
Playground			5	5	3	6	7	2	5
Cafeteria						1		1	1
Bathroom			2	4	2		1		2
Other Outside			3	6	4	4	2		1
Bus			2	2	1	1	3	3	3

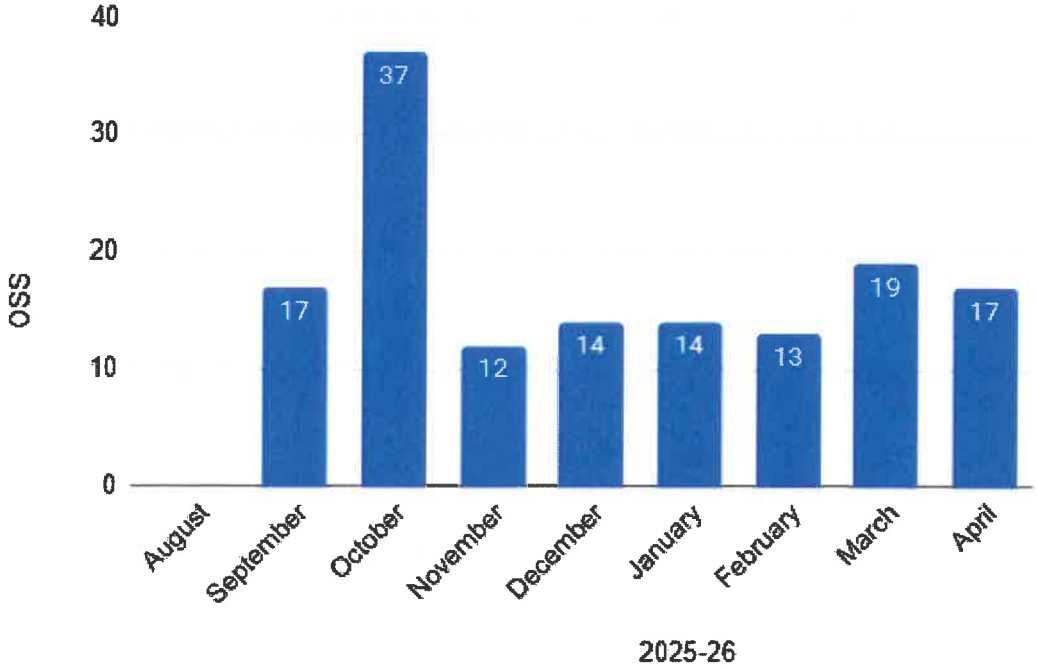
2025-26 Referrals

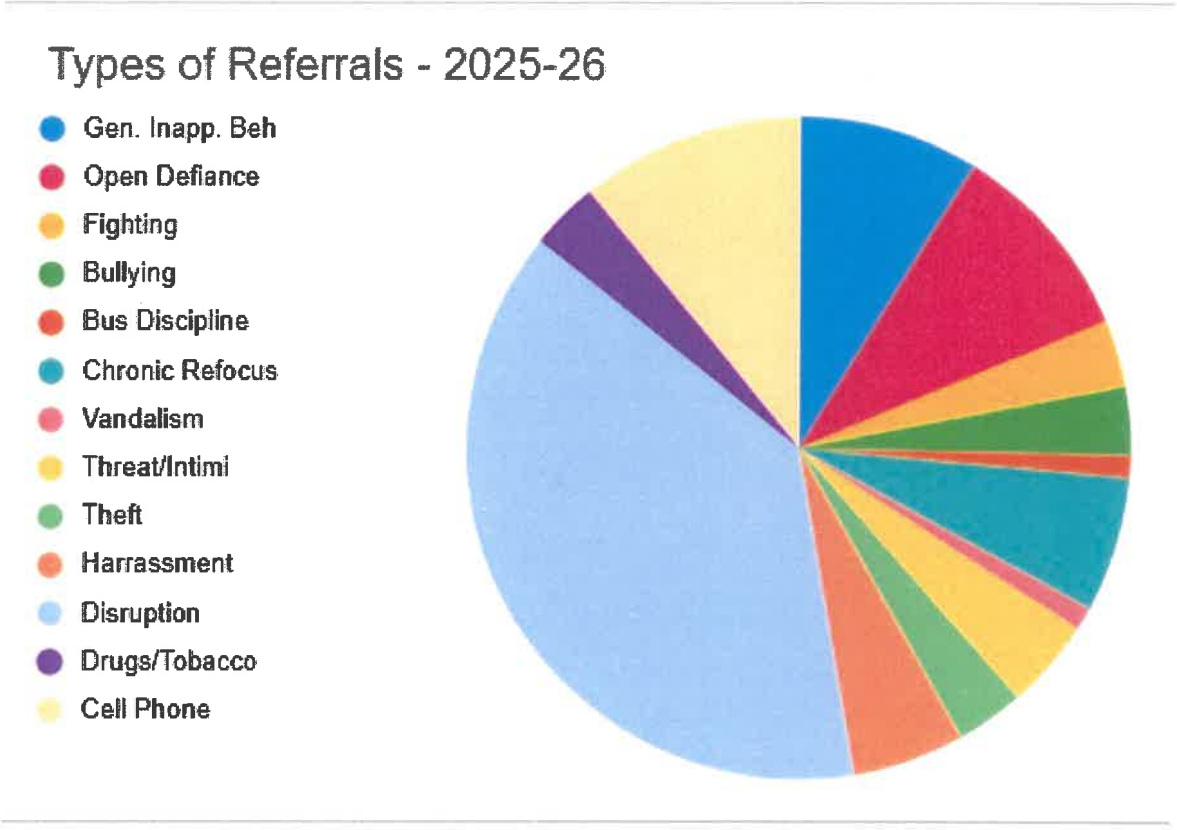


2025-26 Lunch Detention



2025-26 OSS



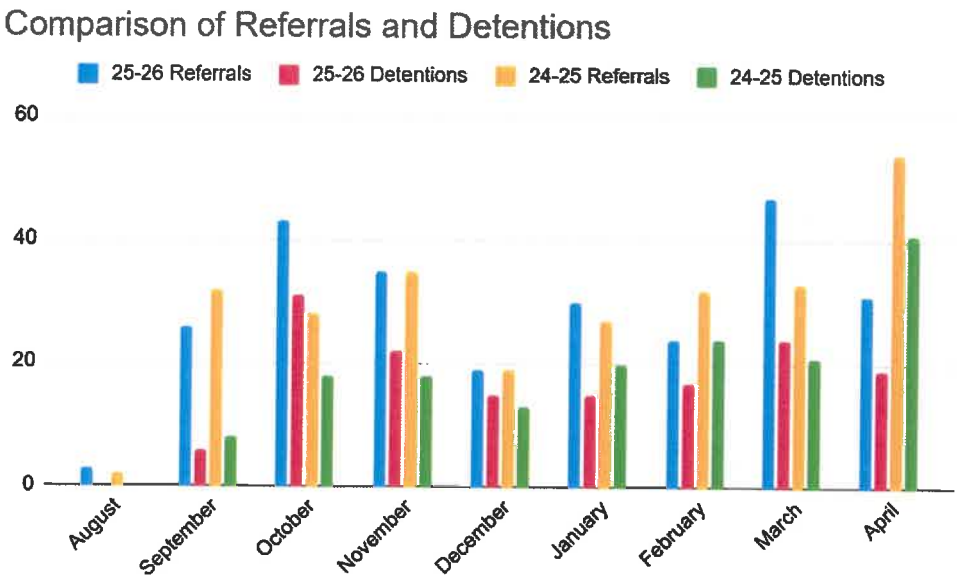

Types of Referrals - 2025-26
Gen. Inapp. Beh
Open Defiance
Fighting
Bullying
Bus Discipline
Chronic Refocus
Vandalism
Threat/Intimi
Theft
Harrassment
Disruption
Drugs/Tobacco
Cell Phone

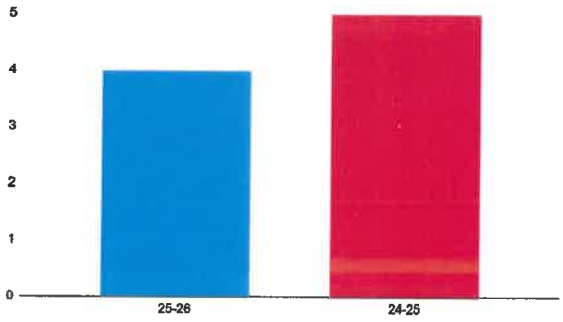
School Board Report
May 2026

PBIS Program:
For the month of April, there were 31 office referrals and 19 assigned lunch detentions. This is a decrease from the previous month and year. We are working hard on reinforcing expectations and helping support students for the last portion of the school year. A major difference between this last month and our current month is the number of students who receive referrals related to attendance issues. We have seen an increase this year in attendance issues but have worked as a staff to address the issue and increase attendance across the school. We are seeing a difference in our attendance rates in the last few months but still can improve on the overall attendance of our students. Below is the breakdown of students per tier. As seen in previous months, there is a large portion of our student body that continues to do exactly what is asked of them each day!

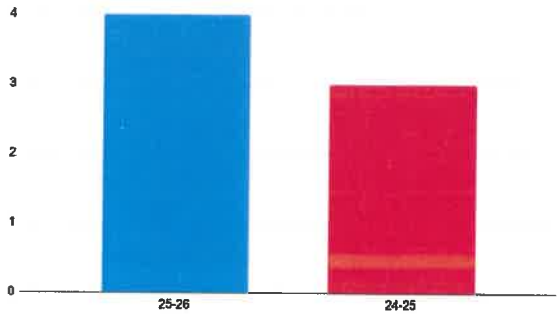
PBIS Tiers	Students	Percentage
Tier 1	654	97%
Tier 2	17	2.5%
Tier 3	3	0.5%

Discipline Report:
In April, EHHS saw a total of 31 office referrals and 19 detentions. Out of the total office referrals there were 4 In-School Suspensions (ISS) and 4 Out-Of School Suspensions (OSS). Below is a comparison of referrals, detentions, ISS and OSS between this school year and last school year.





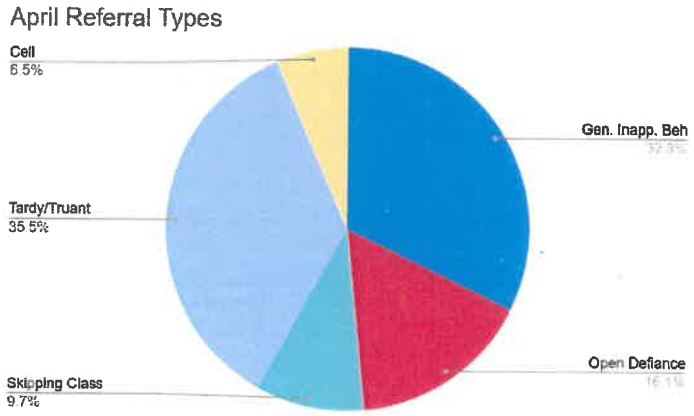
In School Suspension



Out of School Suspension

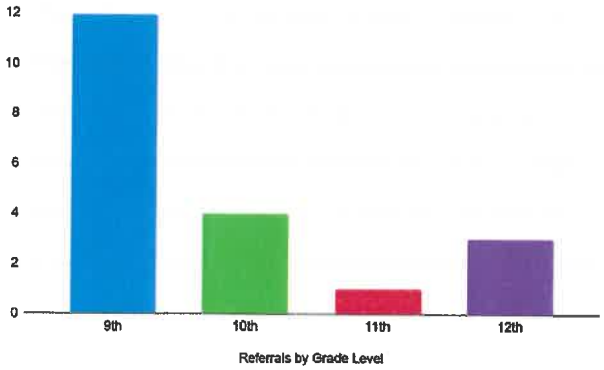
Office Referrals by Category:

The types of office referrals in April are outlined in the graph below. The majority of our referrals fall into the categories of attendance related issues and general misbehavior. These are minor issues that usually result in either a lunch detention or ISS. At our last early release staff meeting, we worked as a team to identify and address concerns of staff. Each group identified the concern of student attendance and wrote a goal surrounding how to address these concerns as a staff next school year. We will combine the goals and make this a major focus next year.



Office Referrals by Grade Level:

Below is the breakdown by grade level for our student referrals.



Referrals by Grade Level

Honored Educators:

We are starting a new tradition at East Helena High School! Our valedictorians and salutatorians are writing letters and presenting a meaningful teacher with a certificate of appreciation. We have been posting pictures of our students presenting their teachers with the certificates. Check out our social media pages to see the fun surprises! Below is the list of the students and their honored educators!

Student	Honored Educator
Ashley Carpenter	Mr. Boedecker, EHHS
Chloe Copenhaver	Lieutenant Colonel Smith, Former JROTC
Cole Jones	Mr. Tofflemire, EHHS
Violet Lawton	Mr. Moore, EHHS
Coen LeVie	Mr. Sampson, EHHS
Xavier Nunn	Mr. Sampson, EHHS
Elliot Ophus	Mr. Bass, EHHS
Rori Schoenfeld	Mrs. Cummings, Former
Hailey Weidow	Mr. Sampson, EHHS
Katie Coomes	Mr. Bender, EHHS
Kyndal Lowrie	Mrs. Jones, Radley
Hagen Paddock-Francisco	Mr. Boedecker, EHHS
Lauren Richardson	Mr. Moore, EHHS
Lauren Betz	Mr. Murray, EHHS
Christian Jensen	Ms. Charlton, EHHS
Jaci Nickovich	Mr. VanNice, EVMS
Tobey Peck	Mrs. Horne (Brown), EVMS
Mia Nelson	Ms. Holmes, EHHS
Declan Turner	Mr. Sampson, EHHS

Sincerely,
Mrs. Klock
EHHS Vice Principal

East Helena High School

School District No. 9 * P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

District Office (406) 227-7700 * EHH School Office (406) 227-7730

"Success For All"

To: East Helena School Board

From: Shaun Murgel

Subject: 05/11/2026

Activities: We are on the downhill slide of all of our spring sports. To give the board an idea of how all of our programs are doing so far this spring here it is.

Baseball: They are currently sitting in second place in our division. If this continues they will play the 3rd team out of the East for a spot in the state tournament in Polson the last weekend of May.

Softball: They are currently sitting in 4th place and will host Hardin on 5/19. If they win they will travel to take on the 3rd place team out of the East for a spot in the state tournament in Hamilton the last weekend of May.

Tennis: They will have their divisional tournament in Butte over Memorial weekend with a chance to qualify as many teams as possible for the state tournament that will be held in Hardin.

Track: We are hosting the divisional track meet here in East Helena this year on May 22 and 23rd. We are super excited for this opportunity. If you or anyone you know would like to help us with the meet please give them my information. State for Track will be in Laurel this year.

Transportation: In visiting with our drivers and seeing the posts on social media, the new Double Decker bus has been a hit with all of our students. The middle school track program has been able to use it for some of their track meets and it turns out they are giving quite a few tours of the bus to other drivers and school personnel everywhere they go. Everyone would like to add buses like we are using.

Kirk Hedrick khedrick@ehps.k12.mt.us Transportation Supervisor Contact

https://ehhs.ehpsmt.gov/ehhs-athletics-activities/athletics-updates/sports

District Website link:

https://www.ehpsmt.gov/

AD Newsletter link:

https://ehhs.ehpsmt.gov/ehhs-athletics-activities/athletics-updates

Facilities: We are winding down the school year but not facility use. We will have hosted the first ever Apples vs. Donuts softball game this past week as one of the great things that happen on our campus. We are also getting volunteers from several groups in the community that have benefited from the use of our facilities for the divisional track meet. It is really amazing to see the community keep giving back to the school.

Facility Use Schedule Link and my email:

https://www.ehpsmt.gov/district-facilities/district-facility-use/facility-reservation-instructions

smurgel@ehps.k12.mt.us.

Thanks

Shaun Murgel

EHPS Technology Report

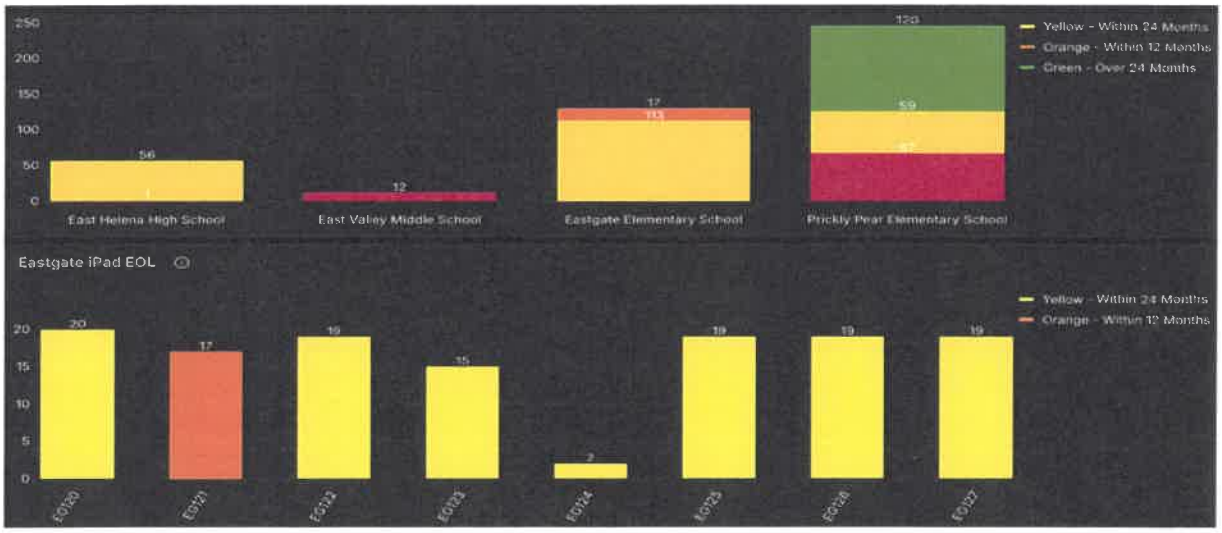
May. 11th, 2026

To the EHPS Chairman and Board of Trustees,

The Technology Department continued work this month on device deployment. Nearly all devices have now been deployed to classrooms, with the exception of Windows PCs, which are scheduled for deployment during the summer.

One major project this month has been the transition away from our current asset management system to a locally hosted platform, Snipe-IT. This change will reduce annual costs by approximately $2,500, as Snipe-IT is free to use when self-hosted. In addition to the cost savings, this platform gives the Technology Department direct access to the asset database, allowing us to create better reports and visual dashboards that help provide a clearer picture of the district's technology inventory.

The charts below show a sample of the current iPad inventory and estimated end-of-life status. This data is still being migrated and cleaned up, so the reports are not yet fully current. However, they provide an example of the type of reporting that will be available once the migration is complete.



Finally, Infinite Campus end-of-year reporting is approaching. OPI/SSoM is currently hosting a weekly course that I have been attending to help ensure the certification process is completed as smoothly and accurately as possible when the reporting window opens.

Thank you for your time,

Eric Power
Technology Coordinator

East Helena Public Schools

School District No. 9

P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

Superintendent/Administration Office (406) 227-7700

Eastgate Elementary School (406) 227-7770 * Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720

Radley Elementary School (406) 227-7710 * East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740

East Helena High School (406) 227-7730

"Success For All"

Date: May 6, 2026

TO: EHPS Trustees

Re: Administrative staff compensation 2026 - 27

From: Dan Rispens, Supt

I am recommending the following pay adjustments for administrative staff for the 26-27 year:

- I recommend a 3.5% for the following positions to account for cost of living and position longevity:
  - District Nurse -
  - Business Manager/clerk
  - IT Director
  - Maintenance Supervisor
  - Transportation Supervisor
- I recommend a $1/hour wage increase for the following Central Office and administrative Staff:
  - Sub Clerk;
  - District Secretary;
  - HR/payroll manager
  - District nurse -
  - IT Helpdesk
  - Food Service Director
- I recommend that the district secretary be appointed as "Assistant Clerk of the Board" and receive a supplementary stipend contract in the amount of $6,000/year to reflect the additional time and responsibilities associated with her duties to the school board..
- I recommend a $5000 salary adjustment for the Advanced Opportunity Facilitator who will also be taking on a new title and responsibility, "Adult Education Coordinator."
- I recommend that school administrators/athletic director pay be set according to the adopted District Administrator Pay Plan.
- The board chair will bring a recommendation regarding the Superintendent's compensation.

TRUSTEE RESOLUTION REQUESTING COUNTY CONDUCT ELECTION(S)
RESOLUTION #246

BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees for School District No. 9, Lewis and Clark County, State of Montana, requests that Lewis and Clark County, State of Montana, conduct the following school elections for School District No. 9, Lewis and Clark County for fiscal year 2027:

☒ **All Elections**

In accordance with 20-20-417, MCA, the county will perform the duties imposed on the trustees and the clerk of the district for school elections in 20-20-203, 20-20-313, and 20-20-401, and deliver to the trustees, for the purpose of canvassing the vote, the certified tally sheets and other items as provided in 13-15-301.

Other election duties not specified will be conducted by mutual agreement between the district clerk and the county election administrator.

Scott Walter
Print Name of Board Chair

Signature of Board Chair

Jane Knudsen
Print Name of Clerk

Signature of Clerk

DATED this 11th day of May, 2026.

EHPS

Dan Rispens <drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us>

MTSBA Connect: MTSBA Leadership Summit Agenda | Tuesday June 9 - 9:00 am - 4:15 pm | Helena

1 message

Wendy Brenden via Montana School Boards Association <Mail@connectedcommunity.org> Wed, Apr 29, 2026 at 12:38 PM

Reply-To: MTSBA-mtsbaconnect@connectedcommunity.org
To: drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us

MTSBA Connect

Post New Message

MTSBA Leadership Summit Agenda | Tuesday June 9 - 9:00 am - 4:15 pm | Helena

Reply to Group Reply to Sender



Apr 29, 2026 11:38 AM
Wendy Brenden

On **Tuesday, June 9**, bring your leadership team – trustees, administrators, and school business officials to the **MTSBA Leadership Summit in Helena** at MTSBA Headquarters and then stay for a **100th Anniversary Celebration reception from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.**

Join us for a dynamic, hands-on day designed to strengthen your leadership and tackle the real challenges facing school districts today. Through interactive discussions, scenario-based learning, and a mock board meeting, you'll gain practical strategies for effective governance, navigating difficult conversations, and building strong board–superintendent partnerships.

You'll also focus on the future - developing clear district goals, using data to guide decisions, and strengthening community trust through effective communication. The day wraps with a look at advocacy and your role in shaping education policy, leaving you with actionable ideas you can take straight back to your district! **Click here to register**

- Strong Boards, Strong Schools: Governance that Works
- Leading Together: Building Effective Board – Superintendent Partnerships
- Navigating Today's Boardroom Challenges – Mock School Board Meeting
- Strategic Leadership for the Next Century
- Community Engagement and Communications
- From the Boardroom to the Capitol: Advocacy for Montana's Students
- The Next Century of School Board Leadership Roundtable Discussion

The day ends with a celebration of the **MTSBA 100th Anniversary.** Join us for drinks and appetizers on the deck at MTSBA Headquarters from 5:00-7:00 pm. Email communications@mtsba.org to RSVP for this Anniversary celebration. *NOTE: We are also mailing out an invitation to your District for the 100th Anniversary Reception. Space is limited, so be sure to RSVP your board and staff leadership team early.*

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR SERVICE AS TRUSTEES, SUPERINTENDENTS, AND SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS, YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

MTSBA 100

Montana School Boards Association

1926 - 2026

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION RECEPTION

DATE & TIME

Tuesday, June 9

5 - 7 PM

LOCATION

MTSBA Headquarters

863 Great Northern Blvd. • Helena

Celebrate the centennial of the Montana School Boards Association and honor 100 years of elected trustee leadership across Montana, alongside colleagues and partners from across the state. This reception honors the trustees and communities who have shaped Montana's schools and looks ahead to the next century of service.

KINDLY RSVP BY EMAIL BY JUNE 1

communications@mtsba.org

Please note space is limited.

May 11th Board Meeting OOD Recommendations

***Students Currently Enrolled**

		Approve
PK	N/A	
K	6	6
1	10	10
2	12	10
3	5	5
4	11	10
5	13	13
6	13	11
7	13	11
8	17	15
9	8	4
10	24	24
11	15	13
12	27	27
	174	**159**

***New Student Applications**

		Approve
PK		6
K	8	0
1	0	
2	0	
3	0	
4	0	
5	0	
6	1	0
7	1	1
8	1	
9	6	4
10	3	1
11	2	1
12	0	0
		13

AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS BY THE LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO THE EAST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT

THIS AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between **LEWIS & CLARK COUNTY, HELENA, MONTANA,** a political subdivision of the State of Montana, 406 Fuller Avenue, Helena, Montana 59601, hereinafter referred to as "the County," and the "East Helena Public School District #9, 226 Clinton Street, P.O. Box 1280, East Helena Montana hereinafter referred to as "District," collectively referred to as "Parties."

AGREEMENT

In consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, the receipt and sufficiency whereof being hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **Purpose:** The AGREEMENT formalizes the relationship between the participating entities in order to foster an efficient and cohesive program that will build positive relationships between law enforcement and the youth in our community, with the goal of reducing crime committed by juveniles and young adults. This AGREEMENT delineates the mission, terms, goals and procedures of the School Resource Officer (hereinafter "SRO") Program as a joint cooperative effort between the District and Lewis & Clark County through the Sheriff's Office. The success of this program relies upon the effective communication between all involved parties.

2. **Effective Date and Term:** This Agreement *shall begin* on **August 20, 2026** and will terminate on **June 20, 2029**. Any extension of the term of this Agreement must be set forth in writing and signed by both parties.

3. ***Mission and Goals:*** The mission of the SRO Program is the reduction and prevention of school-related violence and crimes committed by juveniles and young adults and to build relationships between law enforcement and the youth community. The SRO Program aims to create and maintain safe, secure and orderly learning environments for students, teachers and staff. This is accomplished by assigning a Law Enforcement Officer as an SRO, who is employed by the Sheriff's Office, to the District facilities on a permanent basis.

   Goals and objectives are designed to develop and enhance rapport between youth, sheriff's deputies school administrators, staff and parents. Goals of the SRO Program include, but are not limited to:

- Reducing incidents of school violence and crime;
- Maintaining a safe and secure environment on school grounds;
- Reducing criminal offenses committed by juveniles and young adults;
- Establishing a rapport between the SRO and the student population; and
- Establishing a rapport between the SRO and parents, faculty, staff, and administrators.

Moreover, the SRO's will endeavor to establish a trusting channel of communication with students, parents and school staff. The SRO's will serve as a positive role model to instill in students' good moral standards, good judgment and discretion, respect for others, and a sincere concern for the school community. The SRO's will promote citizen awareness of the law to enable students to become better-informed and effective citizens, while empowering students with the knowledge of law enforcement efforts and obligations regarding enforcement, as well as consequences for violations of the law. The SRO's can serve as confidential sources of informal counseling for students and parents concerning problems they face, as well as providing information on community resources available to them.

The SRO Program shall utilize the SRO Triad concept as set forth by NASRO (National Association of School Resource Officers). Under this framework, each SRO is first and foremost a law enforcement officer for the Sheriff's Office. Additionally, the SRO's are extensions of the school administration and will be recognized as school officials. The SRO shall be responsible for carrying out all duties and responsibilities of law enforcement officers and shall remain at all times under the control, through the chain of command, of the Sheriff's Office. All acts of commission or omission shall conform to the guidelines of the Sheriff's Office directives. Although the SRO's may assist with the enforcement of the District's code of conduct, discipline related to such matters is the responsibility of District teachers and administrators.

Although the SRO's have been placed in a formal educational environment, they are not relieved of the official duties as enforcement officers. The SRO's shall intervene when it is necessary to prevent any criminal act or maintain a safe school environment. Citations maybe issued and arrests made when appropriate and in accordance with Montana state law and Sheriff's Office policy.

The SRO, the Sheriff's Office and/or appropriate prosecuting agencies will have the final decision on whether criminal charges will be filed. The Sheriff's Office reserves the right to temporarily remove the SRO in the event it determines, in its sole discretion, additional officers are needed during a critical incident or natural disaster.

4. **Scope of Services:** The Parties agree as follows with respect to the SRO Program:

a. The Sheriff's Office will provide at least two (2) officer to act as SRO for the District.
   i. The officer(s) assigned as SROs will be at the sole discretion of the Sheriff. The Sheriff's Office will consult with the District in initial selection of SRO officer(s). The officer(s) must have, at a minimum, the following qualifications:
      1. Must be a fully certified law enforcement officer;
      2. Must possess a NASRO Basic Certification within the 1st year of being appointed;
   ii. District will provide the Sheriff's Office with the list of schools to which SRO(s) will be assigned prior to SRO assignments. SROs may be reassigned to a different school after appointment, at the District's request, with consent of the Sheriff.
   iii. SRO(s) will serve at the school to which they are assigned pursuant to a mutually agreed upon schedule by the building administrator and the Sheriff.
   iv. SROs will wear their regular Sheriff's Office uniforms while performing SRO duties unless other attire has been approved by the Sheriff or his designee.

5. **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** The responsibilities of the SRO's include but are not be limited to:

   a) Act as employees of the Sheriff's Office and be subject to the administration, supervision and control of the Sheriff's Office;

   b) Abide with all personnel policies and practices of the Sheriff's Office except as such policies or practices may be modified by the terms and conditions of this AGREEMENT;

   c) Enforce criminal law and protect the students, staff, and public at large against criminal activity. School authorities and the parents of any student criminally charged shall be notified as quickly as possible by the SRO;

   d) Complete reports and investigate crimes and conduct follow-up investigations as assigned by the SRO supervisors;

   e) Abide by all applicable legal requirements concurring interviews or searches should it become necessary to conduct formal law enforcement interviews or searches with students or staff on property or at school functions under the jurisdiction of the District. The SRO will not be involved in searches conducted by school personnel unless a criminal act is involved or unless school personnel request the assistance

of the SRO because of exigent circumstances, such as the need for safety or to prevent flight;

f) Be highly visible throughout the campus, yet be unpredictable in their movements. For officer safety reasons, the SRO shall not establish any set routine, which allows predictability in their movements and their locations;

g) Confer with the school administration to develop plans and strategies to prevent and/or minimize dangerous situation son or near the campus or involving students at school-related activities;

h) Provide information concerning questions about law enforcement topics to students and staff;

i) Attend law enforcement agency in-service trainings as required. Reasonable attempts will be made to schedule such trainings to minimize SRO absence from school on an instructional day;

j) Attend meetings of parent and faculty groups to improve their understanding of the SRO Program and to promote awareness of law enforcement functions;

k) Be familiar with community agencies offering assistance to youths and their families such as mental health clinics, drug treatment centers, etc., and may make recommendations to the families when appropriate;

l) Act as the designee of the campus administrator in maintaining the physical plant of the assigned campus to provide a safe environment as to law enforcement matters. This includes building(s), grounds, parking lot(s), lockers and other public school property;

m) Be involved in school discipline and follow School Board Policies but only when it pertains to preventing a disruption that would, if ignored, place students, faculty and staff at risk of harm, the SRO's will assist in resolving the problem to preserve the school climate. Regarding school code violations that disrupt the school

learning environment, the SRO's will take the student to a school administrator's office for discipline to be meted out by school officials;

n) Share information with the school administrator(s) about persons and conditions that pertain to all District campus safety concerns;

o) Wear the Sheriff's Office Uniform and attire with appropriate logos and/or badges depending on the time of school year, the type of school activity or program, and the requests of the school and/or Sheriff's Office;

p) Wear the Sheriff's Office authorized duty weapons in accordance with the Sheriff's Office policy;

q) Not transport students in theSheriff's Office vehicles except when in the SRO's judgment the students are victims of a crime, under arrest, or some other unique circumstances exist;

r) As soon as reasonably possible, in the event an SRO is absent from work, notify his or her supervisor in the Sheriff's Office and the principal of the school(s) to which the SRO is assigned.

s) At the School Administrator's request, take appropriate law enforcement action against unwanted guests or trespassers who may appear at the school and school related functions to the extent that the SRO's may do so under the authority of the law.

t) Mentor Students when requested to do so by school officials or parents of the student.

u) Any other duties as requested by the District and approved by the Sheriff.

6. The responsibilities of the Sheriff's Office SRO supervisor include but are not limited to:

a) Coordinate work assignments of the SRO's;

b) Ensure SRO's compliance with the Sheriff's Office directives;

c) Coordinate scheduling and work hours of the SRO's (Vacation requests, sick leave, etc.). It is the intent of the parties that the SRO's duty hours shall conform to the school day;

d) Coordinate work during the school Summer Vacation, Spring Break, Winter Break and on other days when the schools are not in session, and the officers are not involved in assigned school related activities, The School Resource Officer, during his/her duty hours dedicated to the school District hereunder, will participate in officer or school training, take accumulated vacation, compensatory, or holiday time off or engage in prevention, enforcement, and other activities as assigned by the Sherriff's Office.

e) Work with the schools to make any needed adjustments to the SRO program throughout the school year;

f) Complete the SRO's annual performance evaluation. The SRO supervisor will request feedback from the schools designated contact person during the evaluation process;

g) In their sole discretion, as agents of the Sheriff's Office, but also allowing for input from District Administrators, the Sheriff's office shall hire, discharge, and discipline SRO's; and

h) Serve as liaisons between the Sheriff's Office and District Administrators in order to resolve matters of mutual concern.

The responsibilities of the District Administrators and staff include but are not limited to:

a) Provide the SRO with private furnished office space at the assigned primary school that can be secured. This may include but is not limited to desks with drawers, chairs, filing cabinets for files and records which can be properly locked and secured, telephones and computers. A safe used for evidence and other sensitive items.

b) Seek input from the SRO regarding criminal justice problems relating to students and site security issues;

c) Notify the SRO as soon as reasonably possible when school personnel discover weapons, drugs, alcohol, or other illegal contraband on school property. Even if the possession of the contraband is not prohibited by federal, state or local laws or regulations, if the possession of the contraband is a violation of District policy or

the student handbook, the contraband may be confiscated and turned over to the SRO's to be properly secured and/or disposed of;

d) Timely notify the SRO with the names of specific individuals who are not allowed on school property, and shall notify the SRO's of any anticipated parental problems resulting from disciplinary action taken against a student;

e) Work cooperatively with the Sheriff's Office to make any needed adjustments to the SRO Program throughout the year;

f) Allow SRO's to view records maintained by the school (Power School) as deemed necessary in the course of their official duties. The SRO's will maintain the same level of confidentiality with regards to school records as they would with any police records, which is dictated by the Sheriff's Office policy and applicable law; and

g) Consider as hours worked under this AGREEMENT, time spent by SRO's attending municipal court, juvenile court, and/or criminal cases arising from and/or out of their employment as an SRO.

7. **Compensation:**

a. The District agrees to pay Lewis and Clark County $80,000 for the first year, $85,000 for the second year, and $90,000 for the third year of the contract. Within 30 days of receipt of documentation of the program costs the district will provide a warrant for payment.
b. The District will pay Lewis and Clark County up to an additional $2,000 for SRO related training per year of the contract.

8. **Employment Relationship:** SRO(s) remains an employee of the Sheriff's Office at all times while performing services pursuant to this Agreement and is not to be considered an employee of the District for any purposes.

9. **Hold Harmless and Indemnification:**

a. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the District agrees to defend, hold harmless, and indemnify the County, its elected and appointed officials, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers from any and all losses, damages, liability and causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, occasioned by, growing out of, or in any way arising or resulting from any intentional or negligent act or omission on the part District, or the District's agents, employees,

officers, representative, assignees, or invitees in connection with duties and activities described in this Agreement.

b. To the fullest extent permitted by law, the County agrees to defend, hold harmless, and indemnify the District, its elected and appointed officials, officers, agents, employees, and volunteers from any and all losses, damages, liability and causes of action of any kind or character, including the cost of defense thereof, occasioned by, growing out of, or in any way arising or resulting from any intentional or negligent act or omission of the SROs performing duties pursuant to this Agreement.

10. **Insurance:** The County and the District will carry appropriate liability insurance at all times during the pendency of this Agreement. Either party may request proof of such insurance at any time.

11. **No Assignment, Transfer, Delegation, or Subcontracting:** The District and the County may not assign, transfer, delegate, or subcontract this Agreement or any of its rights, duties, or obligations hereunder without prior express written consent of the Sheriff's Office.

12. **Compliance with Laws:** The District agrees to comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, including the safety rules, codes, and provisions of the Montana Safety Act in Title 50, Chapter 71, Montana Code Annotated.

13. **Nondiscrimination:** District and the County agree that District and SRO or the Sheriff's Office will not discriminate based on any protected class in any of its activities or provision of services regardless of whether or not those activities or services are provided in connection with this Agreement. District and Sheriff's Office agree that all hiring of persons in connection with this Agreement will be on the basis of merit and qualification and will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or medical condition related to pregnancy or childbirth, sexual orientation or expression, political beliefs or affiliation, genetic information, veteran status, culture, social origin or condition, or ancestry.

14. **Records Access and Retention**: The District and the Sheriff's Office agree to create and retain records in connection with this Agreement. The District agrees, to the extent permitted by law, to provide the Sheriff's Office, or the Sheriff's Office's authorized agent, access to any such records at the Sheriff's Office's request. The County may terminate this Agreement without incurring liability if the District refuses to allow access to records as provided in this section. The District agrees to retain any records concerning this Agreement for eight (8) years after the Agreement termination date. The obligation to maintain records required by this section survives the termination or the expiration of this

Agreement.

15. **Notice Protocol:** Any notice or demand required or permitted to be given under the terms of this Agreement must be in writing. Written notice shall be deemed given when hand-delivered, or when mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the addresses specified in this section, or by e-mail with confirmation of delivery.

    The Sheriff's Office's liaison for purposes associated with this Agreement is:

Name:	Bradley Bragg, Special Operations Captain
Address:	406 Fuller Ave., Helena, MT 59601
Phone:	(406) 447-8247
E-Mail:	bbragg@lccountymt.gov

    The District's liaison for purposes associated with this Agreement is:

Name:	Dan Rispens, EHPS Superintendent
Address:	PO Box 1280, East Helena, MT 59635
Phone:	(406) 227-7740
E-Mail:	drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us

    If either party changes address or contact person, it must notify the other party in writing at the address provided in this section.

16. **Default:** If either party to this Agreement defaults in the performance of any term or condition of this Agreement, the other party may give the defaulting party notice of the default. The notice shall specify the action required to correct the default and a period of time, not less than thirty (30) days, within which to correct the default. If the default is not corrected within the time specified in the notice, the party not in default may terminate this Agreement without further obligation under this Agreement, other than obligations incurred or accrued up to the date of termination. The non-defaulting party may also bring suit for damages, specific performance, and any other remedy available by law.

17. **Termination for County's Convenience:** The County may terminate this Agreement at any time by giving the District thirty (30) days' written notice if, in the sole opinion and discretion of the Sheriff's Office, this Agreement is no longer in the best interest of the Sheriff's Office or if funding for this Agreement becomes unavailable. Sheriff's Office is not liable to the District for any damages arising from termination of this Agreement pursuant to this section.

18. **Termination in Writing:** Notice to terminate must be in writing and made in accordance with the provision in the "Notice Protocol" section of this Agreement.

19. **Remedies Non-Exclusive:** Any remedies available under this Agreement are cumulative and non-exclusive. Use of one remedy does not preclude use of the others.

20. **Failure to Enforce Not a Waiver:** Sheriff's Office's failure, at any time, to enforce or to seek strict compliance with any provision of this Agreement or to exercise any right or remedy arising from the breach thereof does not constitute a waiver of that provision or remedy or of any other provision of this Agreement or available remedy.

21. **Full Integration:** This Agreement, together with its exhibits, if any, embodies the entire understanding between the parties relating to the subject matter contained herein and supersedes any prior statements, understandings, promises, or representations made by either party or their agents. No agent or representative of either party has authority to make any representations, statements, warranties, or agreements not herein expressed.

    The following exhibits are made part of this Agreement by reference:

    None

22. **Amendments in Writing**: All amendments to this Agreement must be in writing and executed by all parties to this Agreement.

23. **Governing Law and Venue:** This Agreement and any extensions hereof shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Montana. If a dispute arises, the proper venue for the hearing of the case is the District Court of the First Judicial District of the State of Montana, in and for the County of Lewis and Clark.

24. **Headings:** The section headings contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and do not affect the meaning or interpretation of the Agreement.

25. **Severability:** If any term or provision of this Agreement is held to be illegal, void or in conflict with any Montana law, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall not be affected. The rights and obligations of the parties shall be construed and enforced as if this Agreement did not contain the particular term, condition, or provision held to be invalid.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the dates stated below.

FOR LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____
By: **Leo Dutton, Sheriff/Coroner**

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____
By: **Bradley Bragg, Special Operations Captain**

Signed : _____ **Dated:** _____
By: **Tom Rolfe, County Commission Chair**

FOR THE DISTRICT

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____
By: **Scott Walter, Board Chair**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signed: _____ **Dated:** _____
By: **Jane Knudsen, EHPS Business Office Manager**

Dan Rispens <drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us>

Re: Fw: East Helena SRO agreement

1 message

Bradley Bragg <BBRAGG@lccountymt.gov> Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 3:57 PM
To: Dan Rispens <drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us>

Sherri did the math with the additional employment costs and we hadn't included that. Here is what it actually would be.

$121,366.34 Stoltz

$113,541.66 Uylaki

$234,908.00 Total

$117,454.00 average

$8,000.00 Vehicle

$125,454.00 Total

$94,090.50 75%

I know that is a big increase in what we were originally talking about. The partnership for us is more important than being 100% on that number and I think we can work out with either the original number, $80,000, for next year so it isn't a big shock then start a conversation about what it would be for each year after that. Let me know what your thoughts are or if we need to set up another meeting or call to go over it. Thanks.

Bradley Bragg
Special Operations Captain
406 Fuller Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
(406) 447-8247 - Office
(406) 324-0784 - Cell

From: Dan Rispens <drispens@ehps.k12.mt.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 14:26
To: Bradley Bragg <BBRAGG@lccountymt.gov>
Subject: Re: Fw: East Helena SRO agreement

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Well,

Firstly I would check those numbers to see if that's salary or salary plus all employment costs (Insurance, work comp, Social security, Retirement etc.)

Let me know what you find.

If possible I'd like to settle on a multi-year rather than revisiting the conversation all the time.

I'll kick that around a bit and give you call.

Montana Board of Public Education

227 Academy Charter School
2026 Annual Performance Report

INTRODUCTION

As outlined in 20-6-809, MCA, the Board of Public Education must annually publish a performance report for each public charter school under its purview aligned with the Public Charter School Performance Framework. The report summarizes the school's academic performance, financial reporting, and organizational performance utilizing the most recent data available for the year in review. Th-e Annual Performance Report also provides a summary of the mission of the charter school and enrollment demographics.

The Board of Public Education is committed to serving and strengthening Montana's system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools, including public charter schools. This Annual Performance Report is produced in order to:

1. Provide timely information to the charter school on its performance relative to the standards and expectations established by applicable federal and state law and the charter contract.
2. Identify the school's strengths and any areas needing improvement.
3. Provide information that enables the community and the public to understand the school's performance.

SCHOOL OVERVIEW

School Name	227 Academy Charter School
School Location	East Helena, MT
Grades Served	6-12
School Mission	The Mission of the 227 Academy is to provide a personalized education enabling all students to achieve, succeed, and thrive.
School and Mission Specific Goal	The 227 Academy has established a goal focused on implementing a comprehensive career development program that expands career exploration and work-based learning opportunities for students. **Goal 1: Career Development and Work-Based Learning** The 227 Academy aims to provide all students in grades 6-9 with annual career exploration opportunities and increase participation in work-based learning experiences for students in grades 10-12. By the end of the 2028-2029 school year, the school aims for 100% of students in grades 6-9 to participate in at least two annual career exploration activities and at least 40% of students in grades 10-12 to engage in internships, apprenticeships, mentorships, dual credit, or other work-based learning experiences. Implementation includes partnerships with Helena College and local businesses, use of the Montana Career Information System (MCIS), and ongoing monitoring of student participation and program effectiveness.
Middle School Enrollment	30
High School Enrollment	68
Total Enrollment in 2026	98

2026 PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

For each measure in this report, the school receives one of the ratings described below:

RATING	DESCRIPTION
Exceeds Standard	This rating is reserved for performance that far exceeds expectations, demonstrating exceptional performance on a particular measure. This rating may be used in the academic framework, but it is not typically used in the financial or organizational framework.
Meets Standard	The target for this rating category sets the expectation for charter school performance in all measures in all frameworks—academic, financial, and organizational. Schools earning this rating on a particular measure are performing well in that area.
Approaches Standard	Schools with this rating are approaching but have not fully met expectations for performance on a given measure. While these schools have achieved some of the minimum expectations on the measure in question, these schools may be subject to further analysis and potentially closer monitoring. This rating may be used for academic measures and qualitative measures in the organizational and financial frameworks.
Does Not Meet Standard	Schools with this rating on a measure are performing below the authorizer's expectations, and the school is subject to further analysis, closer monitoring, and possibly intervention. This rating is used on all measures in all frameworks.

This section provides an overview of the school's performance across the reporting years reviewed on a variety of academic, financial, and organizational measures the school is accountable for achieving, as established by applicable federal and state law and the charter contract.

Academic Performance: Middle School	**2024-2025**	**2025-2026**
Mission or School-Specific Goal(s)	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
Overall Math Proficiency and Growth	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard
Overall ELA Proficiency and Growth	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard
Subgroup Math Proficiency and Growth	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard
Subgroup ELA Proficiency and Growth	Approaches Standard	Meets Standard
Attendance	Applicable next year	Meets Standard
Student Engagement	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
Support for Transitions	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
Post-Secondary Readiness	High School only	High School only
Financial Performance		
Financial Performance and Stability	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
Recurrent Enrollment	Applicable next year	Meets Standard
Organizational Performance		
Charter Governing Board Performance and Stewardship	Meets Standard	Meets Standard

*Adapted from the NACSA Annual Report Toolkit and Guidance

Academic Performance: High School	**2024-2025**	**2025-2026**
Mission or School-Specific Goal(s)	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
Overall Math Proficiency and Growth	Elementary and Middle School only	Approaches Standard
Overall ELA Proficiency and Growth	Elementary and Middle School only	Meets Standard
Subgroup Math Proficiency and Growth	Elementary and Middle School only	Meets Standard
Subgroup ELA Proficiency and Growth	Elementary and Middle School only	Meets Standard
Attendance	Applicable next year	Does Not Meet Standard
Student Engagement	Exceeds Standard	Approaches Standard
Support for Transitions	Elementary and Middle School only	Elementary and Middle School only
Post-Secondary Readiness	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
Financial Performance		

Financial Performance and Stability	Meets Standard	Meets Standard
Recurrent Enrollment	Applicable next year	Meets Standard
Organizational Performance		
Charter Governing Board Performance and Stewardship	Meets Standard	Meets Standard

*Adapted from the NACSA Annual Report Toolkit and Guidance

PERFORMANCE MONITORING SUMMARY

If given a rating of "Approaches Standard" or "Does Not Meet Standard" on any Public Charter School Performance Framework measures, please briefly provide any context and plans to address these concerns.

227Academic High School

Overall Math Proficiency and Growth

It is hard to monitor students when they bounce back to the EHHS side due to engagement, attendance, and growth in their subject.

Due to fluent movement between EHHS, 227 Academy, Helena College, and internships, it is hard to focus on the growth of just each student.

Student Engagement

Student engagement has increased as many students are putting in to enter the 227 Academy. It is hard to increase student engagement and enrollment in the 227 while keeping class sizes to the state standards.

Credit recovery was not as high this year as students were working to catch up on multiple areas of credit recovery. The movement through the assignments has not been as quick as the previous year with the current students enrolled.

Plan for Student Engagement:

1. Find days where teachers can meet with students one on one to review current course progression
    a. Credit needs and review
2. Complete and incorporate individual paths for students when enrolling in the Academy with check ins.

Attendance

The plan to increase attendance in the 227 Charter is to do the following:

1. Take attendance for students working remotely through their classes and not be based upon in seat attendance
2. Incorporate attendance expectations for students to keep their spot in the 227 at semester reviews.
3. Review of previous attendance upon reviewing their application for the 227 Academy.

SUMMARY OF OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS

As part of the Public Charter School Performance Framework, schools were asked to report on five open-ended questions to provide the Board of Public Education with additional context.

How has the public charter school prioritized innovation different from a program that the school district could operate or currently operates without the public charter designation?

The 227 Academies prioritize innovation by providing flexible, personalized learning pathways that differ significantly from traditional district-operated programs. Students are able to progress at their own pace and along individualized pathways to earn the credits needed for graduation, whether enrolled in the middle school or high school academy. In a traditional brick-and-mortar setting, instructional pacing is typically uniform, making it difficult for students to accelerate or customize their learning when teachers must deliver instruction to all students at the same pace.

A clear example of this innovative approach occurred when a student considered dropping out of school to pursue a GED while working full time. Through the flexibility of the 227 Academy model, staff were able to review the student's credit status and create an alternative pathway to graduation. The student was dual enrolled in English courses at Helena College while simultaneously beginning an automotive degree program. Coursework completed for the automotive program also counted toward elective credits for high school graduation.

This level of flexibility allows the 227 Academies to think beyond traditional structures and remove barriers that often exist in brick-and-mortar schools. Rather than losing students to dropout or delayed entry into postsecondary pathways, the charter model enables students to reach their goals efficiently while remaining enrolled, supported, and on track to graduate—an approach that would be far more difficult to implement without the public charter designation.

Why is the public charter school innovating? What are the student needs in the community that are trying to be met?

The 227 Academies innovate to meet the needs of students who do not always thrive within traditional educational structures and timelines. By supporting non-traditional pathways to graduation, the academies provide students with flexible options that align with their individual goals while exposing them to career opportunities earlier than is typically available in middle or high school settings.

Many students in the community are motivated to pursue career pathways, early college experiences, or trade school training. The charter model allows the 227 Academies to remove barriers to these pathways by accelerating credit completion, offering dual enrollment, and aligning coursework with career interests, while still maintaining academic rigor and graduation requirements. This flexibility helps students remain engaged in school while building meaningful postsecondary plans.

A key student need being addressed is access to real-world career experiences. The 227 Academies actively partner with local businesses to create opportunities for internships, job shadowing, and workforce training—opportunities that may not otherwise be available to students. In addition, the academies work to support students who lack transportation or other resources, ensuring they can access job sites and career experiences regardless of personal circumstances.

Through this innovative approach, the 227 Academies are responding directly to community needs by preparing students for successful transitions into the workforce, postsecondary education, or both, while keeping them connected to school and on track for graduation.

How is the public charter school flexible and nimble in response to the needs of students?

The 227 Academy is designed to be flexible and nimble in responding to the diverse academic, social, and personal needs of students. The charter model allows the academy to individualize learning environments and pathways based on each student's circumstances and future goals.

Students who need a remote learning option—whether to support their family during times of need or to address mental health concerns—are able to do so while remaining connected to school, maintaining academic progress, and working toward graduation.

What roadblocks or challenges is the public charter school encountering in efforts to innovate in the public charter school?

One of the primary challenges the 227 Academy faces in its efforts to innovate is operating within a system that requires public charter schools to meet the same expectations, regulations, and accreditation requirements as traditional brick-and-mortar schools. While accountability is essential, these structures can limit flexibility and constrain the academy's ability to fully implement innovative practices designed to meet student needs.

For example, the academy is required to maintain certain staffing positions and traditional academic structures—such as a full-time librarian—even though students already have access to other library resources.

These requirements can restrict the ability to reallocate funds toward additional academic support staff or toward expanding innovative, work-based learning opportunities with local businesses. Increased flexibility in these areas would allow the academy to better support students through internships, career exploration, and hands-on learning aligned with their interests.

State testing also presents a significant challenge, particularly for students who are enrolled remotely due to social, emotional, or mental health needs. While the academy fully supports accountability and student learning, requiring in-person attendance for statewide assessments can be a barrier for families and students who are otherwise fully engaged and successful in a remote setting. In these cases, accreditation risk does not always accurately reflect student progress or the effectiveness of the educational program.

Additional challenges include family engagement and attendance requirements. Many families served by the 227 Academy face barriers such as working multiple jobs or other personal hardships that limit their ability to engage consistently with the school. The academy strives to involve families while ensuring that students are not penalized for circumstances beyond their control. Similarly, some students may demonstrate academic success despite higher absenteeism, yet these attendance metrics can negatively impact accreditation measures and do not always capture student growth or achievement.

Despite these challenges, the 227 Academy remains committed to advocating for flexibility within the system so innovation can continue to focus on student success, equity, and meaningful postsecondary outcomes.

What have you learned, and what goals do you want to set moving forward?

Through the development and implementation of the 227 Academy, we have learned the importance of creativity, flexibility, and thinking outside traditional educational structures while still meeting accreditation and accountability expectations. Navigating these systems has strengthened our ability to design innovative solutions that prioritize student needs without compromising academic standards.

Moving forward, a key goal for the 227 Academy is to develop an alternative graduation pathway that clearly recognizes students who are opting out of a traditional high school model. This pathway could be formally identified as a "227 Academy Certificate" and would acknowledge successful completion of individualized academic and career-focused requirements aligned with student goals.

This certificate pathway could be tailored to meet the needs of students pursuing trade and workforce opportunities, students learning remotely through online academic platforms, and students whose primary focus is achieving stability and successfully completing their education due to challenging home environments.

Establishing this alternative pathway would allow the 227 Academy to more accurately reflect student success, honor diverse postsecondary goals, and continue expanding innovative practices while remaining responsive to the realities faced by students in our community.

STATEMENT OF ASSURANCES:

As outlined in 7.1.3 and 7.1.4 of the Charter Contract, the Charter Governing Board must annually submit to the Board of Public Education a statement of assurances relating to compliance with the Charter Contract and applicable law. The chair of the Charter Governing Board shall initial the following statements of assurance that the public charter school is in compliance with requirements outlined in the Charter Contract and applicable statute:

The 227 Academy is in compliance with the provisions in Title 20 of Montana Code Annotated and local rules, regulations, policies, and procedures relating to noncharter public schools within the located school district.

The 227 Academy is in compliance with the requirements outlined in the Charter Contract.

CHARTER SCHOOL CHANGES:

As outlined in 7.1.4 of the Charter Contract, public charter schools must annually submit to the Board of Public Education a statement outlining changes to the school's educational program, mission, and governing and organizational structures during the previous year. Please also include any substantive changes expected for the upcoming school year.

Changes to Educational Program:
Nothing to report
Changes to Public Charter School Mission and Vision:
Nothing to report
Changes to Governing and Organizational Structures:
Nothing to report

Signature_____

Chair of the Charter Governing Board Date

Please submit the Annual Performance Report to bpe@mt.gov

East Helena Public Schools

School District No. 9

P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

Superintendent/Administration Office (406) 227-7700

Eastgate Elementary School (406) 227-7770 * Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720

Radley Elementary School (406) 227-7710 * East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740

East Helena High School (406) 227-7730

"Success For All"

Notice of Meeting to Consider Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teacher

May 6, 2026

Jessica Clanin
[redacted]

Re: Recommendation for Non-Renewal/Termination of Non-Tenured Teacher on temporary teaching contract

Dear Jessica;

Please be advised that at the upcoming meeting of the East Helena School District Board of Trustees to be held on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30 in the East Valley Middle School Library at 401 N. Kalispell Street, I will recommend that your temporary teaching contract will not be renewed for the 2026-2027 school year and that your employment with the School District be terminated at the conclusion of this school year. I will be making this recommendation without cause pursuant to § 20-4-206, MCA. You have the right to attend this meeting and participate in accordance with the District's public comment procedures.

For your information I am enclosing a copy of § 20-4-206, MCA.

Sincerely,

Dan Rispens,
Superintendent, East Helena Public Schools

cc: Board of Trustees

HAND DELIVERED

East Helena Public Schools

School District No. 9

P.O. Box 1280 * East Helena, MT. 59635

Superintendent/Administration Office (406) 227-7700

Eastgate Elementary School (406) 227-7770 * Prickly Pear Elementary (406) 227-7720

Radley Elementary School (406) 227-7710 * East Valley Middle School (406) 227-7740

East Helena High School (406) 227-7730

"Success For All"

Notice of Meeting to Consider Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teacher

May 6, 2026

Mariah Chambers
[redacted]

Re: Recommendation for Non-Renewal/Termination of Non-Tenured Teacher on temporary teaching contract

Dear Mariah;

Please be advised that at the upcoming meeting of the East Helena School District Board of Trustees to be held on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30 in the East Valley Middle School Library at 401 N. Kalispell Street, I will recommend that your temporary teaching contract will not be renewed for the 2026-2027 school year and that your employment with the School District be terminated at the conclusion of this school year. I will be making this recommendation without cause pursuant to § 20-4-206, MCA. You have the right to attend this meeting and participate in accordance with the District's public comment procedures.

For your information I am enclosing a copy of § 20-4-206, MCA.

Sincerely,

Dan Rispens,
Superintendent, East Helena Public Schools

cc: Board of Trustees

Mailed and emailed 5.6.2026

Montana Code Annotated 2025

TITLE 20. EDUCATION
CHAPTER 4. TEACHERS, SUPERINTENDENTS, AND PRINCIPALS
Part 2. Teacher Employment -- Tenure

Notification Of Nontenure Teacher Reelection -- Acceptance -- Termination

20-4-206. Notification of nontenure teacher reelection -- acceptance -- termination. (1) The trustees shall provide written notice by June 1 to each nontenure teacher employed by the district regarding whether the nontenure teacher has been reelected for the ensuing school fiscal year. A teacher who does not receive written notice of reelection or termination is automatically reelected for the ensuing school fiscal year.

(2) A nontenure teacher who receives notification of reelection for the ensuing school fiscal year shall provide the trustees with written acceptance of the conditions of reelection within 20 days after the receipt of the notice of reelection. Failure to notify the trustees within 20 days constitutes conclusive evidence of the nontenure teacher's nonacceptance of the tendered position.

(3) Subject only to the June 1 notice requirements in this section, the trustees may nonrenew the employment of a nontenure teacher at the conclusion of the school fiscal year with or without cause.

(4) As used in **20-4-209** and this section, "without cause" includes financial reasons.

History: En. Sec. 1, Ch. 324, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 87, L. 1975; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 142, L. 1975; R.C.M. 1947, 75-6105.1; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 510, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 439, L. 1991; amd. Sec. 5, Ch. 438, L. 1997; amd. Sec. 2, Ch. 697, L. 2025.

Disclaimer: The Internet version of the Montana Code Annotated is provided as a research tool to users of the Code. In case of inconsistencies resulting from omissions or other errors, the printed version will prevail.