

**MCASE (inclusive of NWCASE)  
9/24/2020**

## **Regional Problem Solving/Discussions**

**In attendance at remote meeting:**

**Mary Meehan Evergreen  
Charity Cheff Ronan  
Andina Welsh Whitefish  
Cheryl Russell Flathead Special Education Cooperative  
Jenny Rammell Bitterroot Cooperative  
Sara Cole Kalispell  
Matt Porrovecchio Bigfork  
Tim Berg Polson  
Brent Heist Hellgate Elementary**

**Tim Berg brought several questions for the group to consider and share:**

**How are districts ....**

**addressing grading guidance?**

Whitefish has moved from 0 to 100 point scale to students having a 59 to 100 based scale to lessen the impact of individual assignments missing or not meeting standard.

Hellgate has an emergency declaration in place to support P/F grading (anything above 60 is a "P")

Evergreen has sustained standards based grading with a decaying average.

**addressing work completion, particularly remote work?**

Evergreen is identifying this work as No Evidence and conducting home visits to address issues

Other strategies include creating work completion support through a 4 day instructional week with one day for individual student check in.

Bigfork provided additional summer based services to support students meeting standards

Does lack of instruction/participation in remote learning support an additional year of schooling for students through age 19? This has not been supported by SAM unilaterally, but there was a "support" designation from the delegate assembly for ANB for 19 year old students with Individual Education Plans participating in school.

**conducting SLD determination when there has been limited opportunity to learn?**

NASP is recommending not to evaluate given lack of opportunity for instruction and interventions

Chad Berg out of Bozeman has been developing a model with consideration of norm recalibration or variations taking account of school closures

NWREL has a study indicating that regression due to COVID closure or distance learning among 5th grade and later grade students as not significantly impacting skill development

### **implementing pivot plans?**

Polson is on hold

Kalispell, Whitefish, and Bigfork have implemented Pivot Plans

Evergreen is establishing Remote Learning Plans for students and attaching it to the IEP

On a related note, some resources originally posted on the OPI website regarding special education director calls are not listed as archived at this time.

### **addressing related service cessation particularly for middle school age students?**

Polson noted that there are a number of middle school students refusing to participate in SLP services and asked districts to provide feedback on evaluation procedures and rationale for exit.

The educational impact as a need for services should be considered. Students may continue to demonstrate “eligibility” but their needs may not indicate a “need” given age, communication skills, etc...

If speech language is part of the contributing eligibility on the evaluation, a formal re-evaluation is necessary to exit the student from services.

If speech language is a related service, then the student can be exited from direct services based on measures of current levels of performance.

### **Legislative:**

See additional Documents in email

### **Helpful information Links:**

[http://www.nasdse.org/docs/NASDSE\\_Remote\\_Learning\\_v\\_Homebound\\_v\\_Homeschool\\_-\\_Issue\\_Brief\\_3.pdf](http://www.nasdse.org/docs/NASDSE_Remote_Learning_v_Homebound_v_Homeschool_-_Issue_Brief_3.pdf)

### **Regional Roles from the MCASE Board:**

Mary to obtain from Michelle Hallberg

**Self Care Suggestions**

Mary says to get a puppy

Kalispell School District has implemented staff yoga on Fridays