

MAESMP Eastern Region Meeting 10-29-18

Questions from Principals

What are the Hot Topics coming up in January?

- Revenue stability for decision making through the session
- Taxation flexibility to address the needs of the state
- [SAM Advocacy Priorities](#)
 - Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding
 - Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators
 - Oppose Privatization with Public Funds
 - Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure
 - Support School Based Mental Health Services
- Education groups agreed upon hot topics developed by the K-12 Vision Group in August ...

K-12 VISION GROUP LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The K-12 Vision Group validates and supports the intersecting legislative priorities of the advocacy organizations partnering in the Montana Public Education Center addressing the following critical issues:

- Adequate and equitable resources and support to meet the needs of special education students;
- Preserve and ensure previously established funding and support to schools, including but not limited to, GTB phase-in, inflation application to K-12 base aid, and NRD payment;
- Expand opportunities to meet the needs of students from low-income backgrounds;
- Recruitment and retention of excellent educators and staff;
- Ensure the health and safety of students in every Montana school;
- Properly support high quality school conditions and infrastructure;
- Fulfill the constitutional promise of a quality education to ensure opportunity for every child in Montana; and
- Oppose any proposal that supports private nonreligious or parochial schools through direct or indirect means that would infringe on the constitutional rights described in Article X of the Montana Constitution

The K-12 Vision Group also recognizes and embraces key advocacy initiatives that are necessary to achieve its goals and envisioned future and supports advocacy for the components of a well-rounded education needed to achieve the Peoples' goal of fully developing the educational potential of each person. Examples of initiatives necessarily implicated by our five year goals for student success include:

- Codification of sustainable, formula based early childhood education;
- Expansion of support for gifted and talented education, including a focus on increasing availability of advanced placement and dual credit courses throughout the state; and
- Increasing awareness of the importance of courses that are outside the assessment content areas but that are necessary to fully develop the educational potential of each person, including music, art, physical education, technology, career and vocational technical education.

What are the rules for contacting legislators?

[SAMLN19 Rules of Conduct for Political Activity and Advocacy](#)

How can principals get their voice heard?

A tiered system will work best for getting educator voices heard – think ... Universal, Targeted, and Comprehensive as the tiers (similar to the systemic design of MTSS, MBI and even the Montana ESSA plan).

Universal – All schools

- Develop and tell ‘your story’ for educating students in your school, including the value your school brings to the community. You can use the template of [GREAT 2018](#) (released by MT-PEC at MCEL 2018) to tailor this info for your school.
- Develop a strategy to tell ‘your story’ widely in your community and include legislators in that distribution. Consider the strategic approach developed and promoted by Jamie Vollmer in “The Great Conversation” found at <https://www.jamievollmer.com/>.
- Building trust with your community, for what you do and provide for students, is the single most significant element for helping create a culture of support for schools.

Targeted – Schools who realize the importance of advocating for educating our students as critical to future success

- Invite your community to visit your schools so they can see the outstanding atmosphere that you provide for student learning and student well-being.
- Work with the school district leadership and formally invite all legislators (Senators and Representatives) to attend an event(s) at your school. Make them feel welcome when they are there so they can feel the great culture established.
- Build a relationship with the legislators who serve your school so they feel welcome and will want to seek your advice on education related issues.

Comprehensive – Schools who believe strongly in insuring legislators learn about the value of their school to the community and the children served

- Work with your school district leadership to formally invite the legislators that represent your school to a formal tour of your school. Show them (use the, tell ‘your story’ as a guide) your successes and challenges first hand, as well as your goals for the future of your school. Let them know how their support can help.
- Sign up for the [SAMLN19](#) so that you can participate deeply during the 2019 legislative session. Sign up to help SAM work with legislators to help them learn about the issues important to future success of schools all across the state.

Student Data Privacy

Information Security and Cyber Security are both at the forefront right now.

- CoSN Resources on [Student Data Privacy](#) (4/13/18 SAM Update) and [Student Data Privacy/Trusted Learning Environment](#) (October SAM Bulletin) and [Cyber Security](#) (November SAM Bulletin)
- SAM LPLP Trusted Learning Environment Collegial Learning Network ([LPLP TLE CLN](#))
- [MT-PEC School Safety Legal Resources](#)
- [META Website Accessibility Project](#)
- META Terms of Service Project
- Cybersecurity lessons learned from the Flathead 2017
- [OPI Legislative Priorities 9-12-18](#)