

Region IV MCASE Meeting
February 9, 2023 at 9:30 AM
Via Google Meet Link

Participants: JP Williams, Kim McCauley, Jenny Malloy, Chad Berg, Juliana Robinson, Sara Novak, Maria Pace, Sara Jones, Mary Beth Pummel, Danni McCarthy, Norah Barney, Emilie Maule, Sean Maharg, Char Allred, John Gorton

Guests: Family Outreach - Nicole Hofmeister

AGENDA:

1. Legislative Update - Rob Watson
 - a. Anti Science Bill-not teach theory just facts-ton of opposition. SAM opposed this as this took local control away for curriculum decisions. Student testimony.
 - b. Drag Show Bill is today-take away license if teacher defies the bill. May make it out of committee. May die on the floor.
 - c. HB 361: require schools not discipline students for harassment: as a student who knows another student-if using their dead name, birth name or gender at birth-could not discipline. SAM is in opposition as this is against state law on harassment. Will make it out of committee and will have to follow.
 - d. [Link](#) provided on current bill tracker
 - i. Page 2 of link HB 393: Billings Legislator-Governor's support: savings accounts for sped students.SAM/MREA/MTSB are in opposition as it uses public funds for private schools for students on an IEP. Legal note that questions constitutionality to the bill. This was a previous bill that was killed.
 - ii. HB 408: education scholarship tax credit bill. SAM is supportive. District's can receive private donations. Flexibility for districts on how they use the funds.
 - iii. HB 396: Page 5: part time enrollment bill. May not impact districts much since they already have kids on part time enrollment. If the student lives in your district you can't deny part time enrollment. This is already in state law. Added at least be enrolled for part time ANB.
 1. Chad-impact on kids with IEPs-shortened day still collecting full time ANB.
 2. Families "cherry pick" courses under part time enrollment-you do not get to choose as we need to discuss IDEA right to educate under FAPE. Can offer Private School Service Plans or 504 but not sped as the IEP team would be making recommendations for appropriate services.
 - iv. HB 203-Open Enrollment Bill-there will be some amendments introduced-discipline and sped. If a student was suspended/expelled in

the past 3 years-a distinct can say no enrollment. Disability Rights asked for more flexibility. Discussion about not discriminating against a sped student. SAM will change to suspension/expulsion in the past year-a district can refuse enrollment. Chad-the discipline has already been dealt with in the previous district.

- v. Transportation-can cross boundary lines and the district of residence pays to the district of enrollment if the IEP determines appropriate. Sped PK included in open enrollment? Will pose to Lance as this has not been brought up yet.
- vi. ANB for the 4 year old gen ed preschool program as an exception to the policy. Not getting ANB for sped pk programs. 720 minutes a week in a program. For our sped pk the IEP drives what a full services are specifically for the student.

On Watch:

LC 2381: revise laws for educational opportunities beyond kids with significant intellectual disabilities. Dani: LC 4272: Part C agencies to track hard of hearing student-amend to track 3-8 assess students yearly with formal assessment on literacy skills. Limit assessments that can be done-not supportive. Most assessments can only be given more than once a year.

LC 4264: Dyslexia and related learning disabilities

Rob will share more information with Jenny who will share out with Region IV members.

2. Family Outreach Update - Nicole Hofmeister

To support the collaborative services that Family Outreach provides to the District's/CoOps in Region IV, please be prepared to share your District/CoOp policies around HB 233 so Cari and the Adult Service staff can provide training to the FSSs with Family Outreach as they typically are sharing information with the families before the District/CoOp is at the table. This will help to support accurate information that is shared with families.

- Belgrade - developing what this program will be. We only have a handful of students who qualify right now but are looking ahead to when more students will be part of the program. Participation in our 18-21 programming requires a recommendation from the IEP team and board approval. We are running a half day program that is focusing on employment, independent living, and leisure/community enrichment. We are currently focusing on our Life Skills students and a handful of our students with Autism.
- [Bozeman Policy](#)
 - Exceptional circumstances: no MTSBA policy yet. Took language out of HB 233, board approved.
 - Current parent shared that districts do not have permission not to serve students with disabilities up to the age of 21 years old for full day services.
 - "Shall" vs "may" language in laws. Legal foundation districts do not have to do this, they are choosing to do this and will provide an offer of FAPE.

Services are different for this age group just as it is for sped pk students. It takes a mind shift to think about this. We will not warehouse kids in simulated workshop situations to address LRE. Where are 20 year old kids? Moving towards what young adult life is beyond school and partnering with vocational services. LRE, robust services, etc. IEP makes decisions that are reasonable to make progress on goals. These are individual discussions. If adult services are not in play then what are we transitioning to students to? Are the school based services needed if there is nothing to transition to. A gap year between school based and adult services. Are new goals needed? If adult services are in place, then graduate students.

- How will open enrollment be impacted if the district of residence does not provide these services vs the neighboring school? There needs to be continued discussion with SAM in regard to the impact of this with the open enrollment bill.
 - Messy finances and a lack of understanding with parents, districts/coops, community partners, etc.
 - Family Outreach hired an Adult to support employment with experience in the voc rehab service model. Family Outreach can 0208 and supported employment services.
 - Family Outreach is happy to return and discuss helping families get on the DD waitlist so these services can be in place when students are graduating.
- Helena
 - Livingston
 - Park County CoOp-no policies in the small schools yet.
 - Gallatin/Madison CoOp
 - Manhattan
 - Anaconda-no policy yet and no requests
 - Sara Novak-no policies in the small schools yet.

3. HB 214 - Sara Novak

- a. Off-site instruction in limited circumstances. Section relevant to Co-ops:
 - i. E) IF THE TWO DISTRICTS ARE SERVED BY DIFFERENT SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVES, *[the interlocal agreement between the 2 districts would]* INCLUDE A 6 PROVISION, AGREEABLE TO BOTH COOPERATIVES, ADDRESSING WHICH COOPERATIVE WILL SERVE CHILDREN WITH 7 DISABILITIES AT THE OFFSITE INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING AND HOW THAT COOPERATIVE WILL RECEIVE FUNDING.
- b. Entire text of the bill: <https://leg.mt.gov/bills/2023/billpdf/HB0214.pdf>
- c. HB 214: Hutterite colonies and CoOps provide services outside their boundaries. Watching this bill. This is a concern for sped as it does not address the concern-noone is in agreement and we are being forced to serve. Can agree but there is no agreement and battling over the funding. Off site services: Project

based, hands on learning, worksite learning, etc. Targeted for the Hutterite colonies. Colonies break off but stay attached to the original colony. They start another school which impacts CoOps as the move can be in a different CoOp and who serves the new colony? This can be a big distance from the CoOp service to the original colony and crosses a different CoOp. CoOps can find an agreement which is hands off and leaves the original CoOp liable for the services if the other CoOp does not want to serve the new colony. Need clarifications in the bill as who is responsible for the services and not through agreement between CoOps.

4. Recruitment Project - Sara Novak
 - a. Kaitlyn is resigning at the end of this year. Would like to have a smooth transition by having Kaitlyn train the new person.
 - b. Survey the members as to what we want.
 - c. Kim -SAM Office is developing the survey. We will be discussing this at MCASE.
 - d. It is a vital program and we need to keep it intact.
 - e. March deadline to get new person hired and work with Kaitlyn.

5. Graduation on an IEP - Norah Barney
 - a. Senior who do not have enough credits to graduate-OHI, LD
 - i. Graduate on IEP? Policy? Procedure?
 - ii. Several options in Bozeman
 1. 23 credits
 2. SB 18 graduate on state requirements 20 credits
 3. HiSet Option 12.5 credits to be eligible for thousand pass the test
 4. Individual-HiSet pass as academic competency paired with IEP goals.Unenrolled taking HiSet-reenroll when passed and focus on goals.
 5. Graduate on IEP goals-diploma but transcripts will limit the next step.
 6. Policy-IEP team considers transition section of the IEP (college, work force, etc.) when considering the graduation/diploma. HiSet fulfills college requirements. Taking the HiSet requires no previous diploma.
 - 7.

6. Mandt (sp)/CPI Trainers-Danni
 - a. Working on training trainers in Districts/CoOps
 - b. OPI will pay for the training for this year with a focus on CoOps

7. MCEC/MCASE - February 22-24 in Billings, MT
 - a. MCASE Board Meeting - February 22nd at 4:00
 - b. MCASE Membership Meeting - February 24th at 8:00

Next Meeting: March 30th at 9:30