

School Administrators of Montana

Delegate Assembly 2018 Recommendations

Approved by SAM Membership at the SAM Annual
Business Meeting on 10/19/18

SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee proposed action
on SAM Resolutions developed on 5/23/19 for Delegate
Assembly 2019

SAM Advocacy Resolutions School Administrators of





SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
 Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

RESOLUTIONS Approved by SAM Membership 10-19-18

(From this point forward School Administrators of Montana shall be referred to as SAM)
(Understanding Resolution nomenclature: #99/03/08/10/18-01 is a system of numbering that indicates this resolution was first considered by the SAM Delegate Assembly in 1999 as the 1st new resolution that year (99/xx/-01), and that the resolution was revised in 2003, 2008, 2010, and 2018 (xx/03/08/10/18-xx))

Commented [KM1]: Resolution nomenclature defined in the document to increase understanding of resolution development

Resolution #99/03/08/10/18-01 - REQUIRED ATTENDANCE

WHEREAS, school laws of Montana do not adequately address attendance accountability for students; and

WHEREAS, student non-attendance adversely affects student learning, impedes adequate yearly progress, and jeopardizes future academic success; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 American Community Survey identified many thousands of students between ages 5-17 not enrolled in any school, including public, private, or homeschool in Montana;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislative action ensuring consistent statewide guidelines be established concerning excessive student absences, beginning with school enrollment through a student’s graduation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports partnering with all applicable agencies to locate and enroll students not previously enrolled; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM supports initiatives aimed at keeping students engaged and enrolled through graduation.

Designation: Support

Resolution #99/12-02 – FINGERPRINTING, BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE CHECKS

WHEREAS, the safety of our students is of paramount importance; and

WHEREAS, school districts across the nation are seeing increased incidents of violent behavior and abuse;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports the development of an effective state-funded program for consistent, timely and comprehensive background and reference checks and fingerprinting of school employees and volunteers who have unsupervised contact with students.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

Designation: Support

Resolution #99/02/06/07/16/17-08 – SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WHEREAS, disruptive, dangerous, and aggressive behaviors to self and others are occurring at increasing rates in our school communities due to a variety of factors; and

WHEREAS, economic conditions of families and society where adequate mental health services are not provided, families are not eligible for adequate insurance coverage, or determined ineligible for mental health services under existing state guidelines obligate school districts to provide greater attention and resources to students with mental health needs; and

WHEREAS, mental health services remain unfunded within communities and school districts, school districts are using educational resources to provide minimal health services to students with identified needs; and

WHEREAS, there has been a history of inadequate state funding for mental health programs for students with mental health needs in community and school based programs; and

WHEREAS, there exists a significant need for comprehensive services, including community and interagency coordination to meet the needs of children with mental health needs within the school setting; and

WHEREAS, there exists a significant need for a continuum of services including community support, outpatient day and residential treatment, and acute care services with transition support between schools and mental health agencies to meet the mental health needs of children within the state;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports new state funding for Montana residential/educational services for children with mental health needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM urges the State of Montana continue to support and provide funding for school based mental health services; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM supports new state funding for a continuum of mental health services for students in addition to existing state and federal programs without reducing dollars from the state education general fund.

Designation: Action



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions

Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

Resolution #00/15/16/18/19-09 – BOARD/ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Commented [KM2]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019

WHEREAS, schools, like all institutions, need continuous renewal to fulfill their mission of educating all children to high levels of achievement; and

WHEREAS, SAM strongly supports and recommends high-quality, state funded instruction each year for the school board/administrative team; and

WHEREAS, SAM believes that the board/administrative team will become more effective when board members and the administrative team participate together in leadership renewal;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports board/administrative teams professional learning through MTSBA/SAM/MT-PEC or equivalent training opportunities.

Commented [KM3]: Add MT-PEC as a contemporary PD provider for the training outlined.

Designation: Support

Resolution #00/03/05/14/15/16/18-10- ANB FUNDING FOR 19 YEAR OLDS

WHEREAS, the state does not provide funding to support high school services for students who turn 19 years of age on or before September 10th; and

WHEREAS, children often do not enter school until they are older than the present minimum age requirement, therefore attaining their 19th birthday on or before September 10th even though they have progressed 1 grade each year; and

WHEREAS, exchange students from other countries are funded; and

WHEREAS, delay in student’s progression through school may be a result of illness, accident, participation in foreign exchange program, academic difficulties, disabilities; and

WHEREAS, research shows that all students learn at varying rates;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports funding for all 19-year-old students as determined by the ANB formula, only if adequate additional funding is provided beyond the services already allocated to support schools.

Designation: Support

Resolution #01/03/06/08/09/10/14/16/19-01 – FUNDING

Commented [KM4]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019

~~**WHEREAS**, Montana consistently ranks at or near the bottom of all 50 states in economic development; and~~

Commented [KM5]: MT economic ranking has improved significantly over the past decade



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
 Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

~~WHEREAS, Montana has one of the highest poverty levels in the country; and~~

Commented [KM6]: Not sure of the reference to poverty level or if MT is in the highest tier.

~~WHEREAS, Montana chooses not to distribute revenue to adequately fund K-12 education;~~ **continues to seek avenues for equitable and adequate revenue distribution for PK-12 education;** and

Commented [KM7]: Language revision to more positively reflect the past work of the legislature and education community

WHEREAS, schools need to set levies, hold elections, hire staff, set academic schedules and make numerous educational decisions in the early spring; and

WHEREAS, the ability to carry over unencumbered funds would eliminate minuscule levy elections conducted by districts to maintain prior year budgeting authority;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports school funding be on two year cycles corresponding to the off years of the regular legislative session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports the development of a statewide economic plan to generate and distribute revenue needed to provide adequate and equitable funding levels for PK-12 education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports requiring the legislature to allocate at a minimum the amount budgeted for PK-12 education in the prior session or special session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislation to allow districts to carryover unencumbered prior year funds without affecting budget maximums; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That SAM believes that the MTDA (Montana Digital Academy) funding sources shall come from the state legislature and not from the individual district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That SAM supports funding of state special education allowable costs as a part of the school funding formula, with the allocation adjusted to meet the needs of special education cooperatives and inflationary increases applied to this component of the funding formula; and

Commented [KM8]: Addition of Special Education Funding to the formula and adjust for special education cooperatives without reducing allocation formula

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports continued funding of full time kindergarten.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM supports additional and continued funding for early childhood education programs.

Designation: Support

Resolution #01/03/14-02 – RETIREMENT



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

WHEREAS, school administrators and teachers are leaving Montana education after 25 years of enrollment in the TRS system to take jobs in other occupations and states, allowing them to collect full retirement from Montana TRS and at the same time collect another salary; and

WHEREAS, Montana faces a serious shortage of administrators, teachers and related service providers; and

WHEREAS, an ever-increasing percentage of administrators, teachers and related service providers are eligible to retire and leave education in Montana;

WHEREAS, districts having Retirement Reserves cut from 35% to 20% has caused issues for systems facing a large number of retirees and caused cash balance issues for many districts;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports the return of Retirement Reserves percentages to the pre-2013 levels;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports changes in TRS – (1) For the legislature to create an actuarially sound system, (2) to grant a change from 1.67% to 2% per year rates for retirement occurring after 30 years of creditable service with appropriate funding sources, (3) to establish an additional funding mechanism to grant retirees the ability to reenter education at up to a full salary without loss of benefits.

Designation: Support

Resolution #01/18-04 – PERMISSIVE FUNDING FOR HIGH IMPACT COSTS

WHEREAS, Montana school districts continue to experience high impact fixed operating costs, such as utilities, fuel costs, technology and health insurance, which in recent years have increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, school districts are required to pay for these costly expenditures through the general fund budget which negatively impacts educational opportunity for students; and

WHEREAS, school districts have little or no way to control such costs or even budget for them without cutting or eliminating educational programs;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports the creation of separate funds or inclusion into existing funds, outside the General Fund Budget supported through permissive levies, to fund high impact fixed costs and protect the ability of the GFB to support the educational needs of students.

Designation: Action



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

Resolution #01/03/05/12/14/15/16/17-07 —STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, SAM believes there is no single measurement evaluating the quality of education between students and schools; and

WHEREAS, SAM believes any mandated programs of testing must be fully funded and include fully funded research-based intervention programs that help students reach benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, SAM believes that the current concept of high stakes testing does not help schools meet the needs of its students or its community;

WHEREAS, SAM believes that federal and state mandated testing and reporting are excessive and the time required for testing needs to be balanced with time for student instruction;

WHEREAS, SAM believes that using computer adaptive testing is valuable and technology should work appropriately to insure students have the best opportunity to reflect what they know and are able to do during testing in order to have reliable and valid results;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports use of multiple measures of school assessment in local school improvement projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports the use of a growth based model of student achievement which includes multiple measures of student performance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if the state funds interim assessments that the use of that funding and the choice of assessment used will remain under the control of local school districts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SAM supports full state and federal funding of mandated assessments and subsequent intervention programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SAM supports grade band testing at grade levels determined and approved in Montana, with minimum reporting to the federal government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SAM supports establishing levels of performance (cut scores) that are reviewed and approved by Montana educators following baseline results on the assessment;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SAM supports no sanctions to schools or students in Montana as a result of testing that may affect reliability and validity of results.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that local school administrators are responsible for communicating the value of student testing, and also the limitations of the results received, with their local community, state and federal officials. The best interests of students and their learning is the goal and we support and recognize the importance of receiving timely assessment results to inform instruction and monitor student progress.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

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Resolution #02/12/14-03 – VOUCHERS, TUITION TAX CREDITS, TAX SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS (OTHER THAN AS DEFINED IN ARM 10-55-604)

WHEREAS, vouchers, tuition tax credits and charter schools detract from the goal of comprehensive improvement of public schools, do not enhance public and non-public school competition, and do not significantly impact student achievement levels; and

WHEREAS, voucher programs do not cover the full tuition costs of many schools, thus preventing true choice for many parents and students; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance or use of public funds by private and parochial institutions would threaten the unique mission of these schools by requiring every recipient of public funds to abide by the same laws, rules, and regulations as public schools; and

WHEREAS, non-public schools ultimately determine which students will be admitted and/or removed from their rolls therefore increasing discrimination; and

WHEREAS, vouchers, tuition tax credits and charter schools are prohibitively expensive, require taxpayers to finance the tuition costs of students attending private and parochial schools, and remove funds from public schools;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM will oppose the use of vouchers, tuition tax credits, tax savings accounts and charter schools in any form.

Designation: Action

Resolution #03/15-01 - SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, the percentage of state support for earmarked special education general fund expenditures has declined at a rate significantly greater than has the rate of state support for the total general fund budget; and

WHEREAS, the original intent of Congress was to fund special education at the 40% level of the national average for pupil expenditure; and

WHEREAS, the lack of state fiscal support for mandated special education services effectively decreases the amount of general funds available to support general education programming;



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT RESOLVED; that SAM urges the legislature and state officials to avoid state appropriations that may suggest discriminatory funding practices between special education and regular education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislation to allow school districts to increase their budget caps to provide for the disproportionate costs associated with educating students with special needs; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM supports efforts to fully fund IDEA at its originally intended levels and to allow flexibility in maintenance of effort requirements.

Designation: Action

Resolution #03/06/11/16/17-02 – ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR MANDATED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, the state provides inadequate funding to support the mandated services required of schools for students with disabilities placing a disproportionate financial burden upon local tax-payers;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports full state and federal funding for mandated special education services for students with disabilities with parallel increases to ANB funding based on the current formula;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM will prioritize support of legislative action to increase the monetary investment for such mandated special education services by applying additional state funding without reducing payments for the Instructional Services Block Grant, Related Services Block Grant, and the Disproportionate Cost Reimbursement.

Designation: Action

Resolution #03/04/06/14-03 – INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, quality instruction is best provided by regularly assigned classroom teachers; and

WHEREAS, school improvement demands coordinated efforts amongst numerous professional staff members; and

WHEREAS, current efforts for school improvement require staff members to be removed from primary teaching or administrative duties; and

WHEREAS, the absence of regularly assigned, certified staff results in a loss of continuity in classroom academic progress, as well as, building and district leadership; and



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM promotes additional pupil instruction related (PIR) hours fully funded by the state be added to the school calendar for the purpose of school improvement.

Designation: Support

Resolution #03/05/06/10/16-05 - COOPERATING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

WHEREAS, quality new professional teachers and related service professionals are in high demand; and

WHEREAS, teachers and related service professionals who work in the role of the cooperating or supervisory teacher and related service professionals for a student teacher and related pre-service professionals are currently without specific cooperative professional learning; and

WHEREAS, individuals pursuing an education career are deserving of a strong student teaching and related pre-service experience;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM encourages Montana teacher and related service professional education programs to involve specific professional learning and/or pre-requisite study and adequate compensation and/or college credit for cooperating or supervisory teachers and related service professionals.

Designation: Support

Resolution #03/05/15-06 – HOME SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, SAM believes a free public education is the cornerstone of American democracy; and

WHEREAS, alternative options such as home schooling have been authorized by state legislation; and

WHEREAS, Montana has a very liberal law concerning home schooling. This creates situations that are not consistent with a quality education as defined by the State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the law enables families to avoid the schooling of the child or provide only minimal schooling; and

WHEREAS, it is difficult to place home school students at the proper level in the public system;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislation that strengthens the accountability of home schools in Montana; and



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
 Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Resources and authority should be provided to make certain that those who exercise these options are held strictly accountable for the academic achievement of children on a quarterly basis.

Designation: Support

Resolution #03/05/14-08 – FEDERAL PROGRAM RETIREMENT FUNDING

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislation allowing retirement costs for those district and cooperative employees paid through federal funds to be paid from the district’s retirement fund.

Designation: Support

Resolution #04/14/16/19-02 – ~~PRE-SCHOOL~~ **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS ~~[2017~~
~~Legislative Session HB 639]~~**

WHEREAS, high quality ~~pre-school~~ **early childhood** programs contribute to later academic and social success; and

WHEREAS, many of Montana students do not have access to quality ~~pre-school~~ **early childhood** programs;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports the development of additional and continued fully funded ~~universal public~~ **early childhood** programs in Montana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports the development of high standards for both ~~pre-school~~ **early childhood** programs and ~~pre-school~~ **early childhood** teacher quality.

Designation: Support

Resolution #04/14/16-03 – SUMMER AND/OR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, many schools are offering summer school programs and/or after school programs to provide more learning time for students; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that extended learning time increases achievement;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports additional state and/or federal funding to schools that offer summer and/or after school programming to its students; and

Commented [KM9]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019

Commented [KM10]: Contemporary language that would include Early Kindergarten of preschool programs

Commented [KM11]: Delete reference to previous session

Commented [KM12]: Language updated

Commented [KM13]: Language updated

Commented [KM14]: Focus on public early childhood programs for equity

Commented [KM15]: Language updated

Commented [KM16]: Language updated

Commented [KM17]: Language updated



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports additional state and county funding for student transportation for schools that offer summer and/or after school programs.

Designation: Support

Resolution #05/09-03 – CARL PERKINS AND HIGH SCHOOL CAREER AND TECHNICAL REFORM FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act is an essential component of funding for quality career and technical education in Montana high schools; and

WHEREAS, the administration and Congress are looking at ways of involving the federal government in reforming the nation's high schools by moving the ESEA model into high schools; and

WHEREAS, current ESEA funding for Title programs in secondary schools is at inadequate and proportionately low levels; and

WHEREAS, SAM is fully supportive of, and committed to, high school improvement;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM opposes efforts to eliminate or reduce funding Carl Perkins programs for Montana Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports significant federal and state resources for the development of long-term strategies and systemic improvement of high school career and technical reform efforts.

Designation: Support

Resolution #06-02 – PARENT INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTERS

WHEREAS, there exists a significant need to provide parents with information resources to help their children be successful in school; and

WHEREAS, some households within our communities may lack the awareness, knowledge and/or confidence to support effectively students' **social**-emotional, academic and physical needs at times; and

WHEREAS, school districts from across the state would benefit from the ability to provide ongoing and consistent parent resources/information such as conflict management, health and nutrition information, homework/study skills strategies, and time management;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM urges the State of Montana to support and restore funding for Parent Information Resource Centers that would provide parents with effective strategies in meeting the emotional, academic and physical needs of their children.

Commented [KM18]: Contemporary language change



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
 Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

Designation: Support

Resolution #08/12-01 – EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR DETAINED STUDENTS

WHEREAS, there are students detained in detention/treatment centers that may or may not be enrolled in a school district; and

WHEREAS, the school district in which the student or his or her parents reside is responsible for educational expenses;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports state financial responsibility for educational services of detained students in detention/treatment centers.

Designation: Support

Resolution #10/16/19-01 – UNIFIED RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

WHEREAS, Montana has significant difficulty in recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and related service professionals in general and special education; and

WHEREAS, Montana has historically experienced difficulty in the recruitment and retention of low incidence professional positions, such as speech pathologists, school psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, sign language interpreters and other professional staff necessary for the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act 2005 (IDEA) **and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**; and

WHEREAS, Montana has historically experienced difficulty in the recruitment and retention of general education professional positions necessary to provide instructional service which meet accreditation standards; and

WHEREAS, school districts currently spend a significant amount of resources including time and money on the recruitment and retention of low incidence personnel; and

WHEREAS, a unified collaborative effort towards statewide recruitment and retention would be more cost effective and efficient; and

WHEREAS, recruitment and retention of highly qualified/low incidence positions is difficult due to the geographic isolation of many communities of Montana; and

Commented [KM19]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019

Commented [KM20]: No need for year of reference

Commented [KM21]: Many new conditions under ESSA- PhD level for certain special education positions



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

WHEREAS, Office of Public Instruction has worked collaboratively with Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education on the recruitment and retention of highly qualified/low incidence personnel; and

WHEREAS, Montana continues to have chronic shortages;

BE IT RESOLVED: That SAM supports the implementation of a unified recruitment and retention program designed to address current personnel shortages in both general and special education.

Designation: Action

Resolution #10/16/19-03 – MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, SAM has always supported safe, **secure**, drug free school efforts;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports drug free schools and drug-free work place policies that prohibit the use of medical marijuana on school grounds, at school events, or any activity involving schools or students.

Designation: Support

Resolution #11/14-01– ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION

WHEREAS, school administrators are an important factor in a quality education; and

WHEREAS, each school is unique; and

WHEREAS, administrative evaluation is a valuable piece of professional growth;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports an evaluation process that is adopted at the local level based on multiple measures.

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM does not support the use of state-wide student assessment scores in administrator evaluation.

Designation: Support

Resolution #12/13/15-01 – PRINCIPAL/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ASSIGNMENT

WHEREAS, SAM believes and research has confirmed that continuity of school level leadership is essential for the continuous improvement of educational quality;

Commented [KM22]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019

Commented [KM23]: Contemporary language change



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislation and practice which will recognize a principal/assistant principal's years of service in regard to maintaining salary and cost of living raises and benefits; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, in the event of reassignment without cause; service, salary and benefits will remain the same and progress as cost of living increases rise.

Designation: Support

Resolution #12/13/16-03 – SCHOOL PRIVATIZATION WITH PUBLIC FUNDS LEGISLATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM take the following positions with regard to school privatization legislation of any kind by the Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM work to ensure that elected school boards in member school districts are empowered to innovate and adapt public school offerings to best meet the needs of students and to fully develop the educational potential of each student in the public schools as envisioned by the Constitutional framers in writing Article X, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM work to ensure continued supervision and control of all publicly funded PK-12 education in Montana by existing school boards in current member districts who are subject to popular election to ensure that publicly-funded PK-12 education remains accountable to citizens in each community through oversight by volunteer elected trustees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM oppose any attempts to fund private PK-12 education, including sectarian and non-sectarian private schools and home schools through public means and that SAM interpret "public means" to include but not necessarily be limited to any appropriation, tax credit, tax deduction, voucher or any other financial incentive or construct mandated or allowed by law or proposed in any bill or initiative. Guidance on SAM's position and efforts are to be derived from but not limited to the language of Article X, Section 6 (Aid prohibited to sectarian schools) and applicable interpretations of this provision by the Montana Supreme Court and other courts interpreting similar language in their respective state constitutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM work to ensure that any school choice legislation be limited only to public schools and comply with and afford every student in every public school with all constitutional rights specified in Article X of the Montana Constitution and access to a public education that complies with the definition of the basic system of free quality schools adopted by the Legislature in 20-9-309, MCA;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM actively and vigorously opposes any legislation failing to meet the standards set forth above and pursue enforcement of the constitutional provisions referenced in this resolution through any lawful means.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
 Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

Constitutional References:

Section 1. Educational goals and duties. (1) It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person. Equality of educational opportunity is guaranteed to each person of the state.

Section 6. Aid prohibited to sectarian schools. (1) The legislature, counties, cities, towns, school districts, and public corporations shall not make any direct or indirect appropriation or payment from any public fund or monies, or any grant of lands or other property for any sectarian purpose or to aid any church, school, academy, seminary, college, university, or other literary or scientific institution, controlled in whole or in part by any church, sect, or denomination.

Section 8. School district trustees. The supervision and control of schools in each school district shall be vested in a board of trustees to be elected as provided by law.

Designation: Action

Resolution #13/15-01 – CAPITAL FACILITY NEEDS ~~[2017 Legislative Session SB 307, SB 260]~~
[2019 Legislative Session HB 247, HB 652]

Commented [KM24]: Reference to contemporary legislation

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM pursue continued and expanded state funding for capital facility needs in districts across the state of Montana to match and leverage local support for maintaining quality, safe, healthy, and educationally appropriate school facilities that meet the needs of 21st Century learning. The resolution should include support for technology costs within the definition of capital facility needs. The resolution should encourage energy efficiency, quality materials, and the general concept of sustainability. In addition, we encourage state support to match local building reserves so that school districts will be able to maintain facilities.

We encourage state support maintaining local control, and ensuring full funding for programs such as the state Facility Guaranteed Mill per ANB funding, as well as new initiatives that might be developed in the future.

We believe that this resolution is important to the needs of students in districts across the state of Montana.

Designation: Action

Resolution #13/14/18-02 – ALIGNMENT OF ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND FUNDING

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM work to regularly monitor changes in accreditation standards and work to ensure appropriate alignment between the accreditation standards adopted by the Board of Public Education and funding appropriated by the Montana Legislature to assist school districts in implementing such standards. SAM shall pursue such alignment either through opposition to unfunded or underfunded changes or through pursuit of funding necessary to allow school districts to comply with such standards.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
 Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM collaborate with the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education to develop a Small Schools Process by which Student Performance Standard Level of Accreditation is determined that takes into consideration the unique nature of Montana’s smallest schools and protects a student’s right to privacy.

Designation: Support

Resolution #13/14/15-03 – MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, school districts have learned from experience that there are many areas of statute and rule that do not allow for flexibility or in efficient operations at the local level. School elections, student discipline, and open meeting laws are examples of areas of policy that have been reviewed and improved for the benefit of school districts, and

WHEREAS, as a matter of equity, school districts who contract for transportation services should be treated the same as districts who own their buses and are exempt from state fuel taxes, and

WHEREAS, School districts should be able to utilize the best available technology and use cost-effective means in meeting the requirement to store records, but currently operate under restrictions imposed by statute and by the Local Government Records Committee, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM, in the interest of more efficient and effective governance, the optimization of resources, as well as enhancements to and revival of local control, call on SAM membership to engage in discussions at the local board table related to efficiencies, optimization of resources efforts, and identification of implementation barriers to create efficiencies, and bring them to the attention of SAM, the Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC) and the legislature for the establishment of appropriate laws to allow districts to become as efficient and effective as possible.

Designation: Support

Resolution #13/14/17/19-04 – FEDERAL ISSUES IMPORTANT TO MONTANA

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM will work with the Montana Congressional Delegation in support of full federal funding of special education (IDEA) **and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM will work with the Montana Congressional Delegation to ensure that the USAC E-rate program stays fully funded to ensure equitable and adequate bandwidth to every student; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports Net Neutrality; and

Commented [KM25]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019

Commented [KM26]: Added contemporary language on ESEA reauthorization



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that SAM will communicate with the Montana Congressional Delegation regarding our continued opposition to school vouchers in any form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM will work with the Montana Congressional Delegation during the reauthorization of any education legislation in support of adequate funding and to ensure that the implementation of the federal legislation is reasonable for Montana school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM support a stronger voice for rural education at the federal level that includes the establishment of an Office of Rural Education Policy within the U.S. Department of Education to recognize the unique challenges facing rural schools and that federal policies should balance the needs of urban and rural school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM will communicate with the Montana Congressional Delegation regarding the concern of Montana school districts over a drop in federal funding for important programs such as Title I and other Title programs, Carl Perkins, Impact Aid, and Medicaid Reimbursement, and the impact these reductions could have on local and state funding of current education priorities; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that SAM will advocate for maintenance of local supervision and control over federal funds allocated to Montana's public schools and oppose provisions in federal/national legislation, regulation or other standards that would denigrate local control of Montana's public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports formula funding and opposes competitive grant programs at the federal level; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM will support additional federal resources for capital or operational programs only to the extent that these programs are not unfunded mandates or under-funded programs.

Designation: Support

Resolution #13/16/17-07 – PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Public Education has adopted Montana Content Standards; and

WHEREAS, funding for implementation of the Montana Content Standards is inadequate; and

WHEREAS, mandatory state assessments are in place; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 55 Accreditation Standards require teacher and principal evaluation systems;



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports additional state funding for the training of teachers and administrators for the implementation of the Montana Content Standards, state assessments, and the Montana Educator Performance Appraisal System (EPAS) State Models for Teacher and Administrator Evaluation.

Designation: Support

Resolution #14-04 – FUNDING SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, a large majority of school districts, 81%, participate in special education cooperatives owing in a large part to a very sparsely distributed population; and

WHEREAS, increasing frequency, intensity, and investments of special education services require a robust cooperative infrastructure necessary to assure our students in rural schools equal access to special education services and quality education; and

WHEREAS, school laws of Montana do not adequately address funding the basic entitlement of Cooperatives in order to establish the appropriate infrastructure necessary for rural students to have equal access to special education services and quality education;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislative action ensuring the development of the full educational potential of each person;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislative action to increase the monetary investment in Cooperative infrastructure including means to recruit and retain highly qualified personnel in rural areas; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislative action to ensure educational infrastructure is equitably and adequately funded across all Montana administrative units.

Designation: Action

Resolution #15/17-01- SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING, CLOSING THE GAP ~~[2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HJ H]~~ **[2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HB 638]**

Commented [KM27]: Contemporary legislative session activity

WHEREAS, review of recent legislative funding increases for K-12 education will clearly show there has been, and continues to be a significant “gap” between increases in revenue provided general education versus increases provided special education; and

WHEREAS, historically, state and federal legislative increases in funding for special education services have been infrequent and wholly inadequate. This lack of additional revenue places increasing pressure on districts to use local revenue to fund special education services; and



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

WHEREAS, because districts and cooperatives are receiving inadequate increases in special education revenue, the effect on districts includes reducing services to special education children placing districts at risk of failing to provide FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education), places special education in the position of “competing” for local funding with general education, sports, and other activities, and places an increasing burden on local tax payers;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM will work with their educational partners, the Office of Public Instruction, Governor’s office, and the Congressional delegation to “close the gap” in funding increases for general education versus special education.

Designation: Action

Resolution #15-08 – KINDERGARTEN AS PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION

WHEREAS, kindergarten is a very important building block in a child's education;

WHEREAS, kindergarten has a more educational focus with specific content standards;

BE IT RESOLVED, that students should begin their compulsory education with attendance in kindergarten;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports that kindergarten is part of a child’s compulsory education in the State of Montana.

Designation: Support

~~**Resolution #16/18/19-01 – ONLINE VERIFICATION AND GRACE PERIOD FOR REGISTERING EDUCATOR LICENSE**~~

~~**WHEREAS**, educators must register their certificates within 60 calendar days of performing contracted services per MCA 20-4-202; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, only the original certificate can be registered; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, MCA 20-4-202 does not allow a grace period to address registering certificates with a County Superintendent of Schools Office; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, it has become difficult to register certificates with a County Superintendent of Schools Office within the 60 calendar day period either through part time office hours or licensure issues;~~

~~**BE IT RESOLVED**, that SAM supports legislative action to add the option to allow a grace period in registering the original certificate with consistent access to County Superintendent of Schools for online~~

Commented [KM28]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
 Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

verification of certificate registration through scanning and submitting through email or digital affidavit from the TEAMS/FTE Report up to the December 1 teacher assignment deadline.

Designation: Support

Commented [KM29]: This issue has been resolved and no longer requires a resolution

Resolution #16/19-02—STATE TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL

Commented [KM30]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019

WHEREAS, the challenges of academic improvement are not limited to a 180 day school year; and

WHEREAS, current law allows provision of education throughout the year, computed on the basis of minimum aggregate hours of instruction, without any limitation to the number of days on which such instruction is provided; and

WHEREAS, significant research exists supporting the value of expanded and year round learning opportunities in addressing achievement gaps and preventing summer learning loss; and

WHEREAS, the needs of students in poverty to have access to quality classroom instruction are further limited by the current 180 day limit on state transportation reimbursement under MCA 20-10-145; and

WHEREAS, the current organization of schools statewide is limited by geography; and

WHEREAS, the education system in Montana is constantly adapting to the changing demographics of the student population in our state; and

WHEREAS, the use of State Transportation reimbursement is expressly prohibited by the criteria set forth in MCA 20-10-145; and

WHEREAS, Montana school districts use all possible resources to be able to offer extended learning opportunities to their students; and

WHEREAS, communities should have the right to determine how, when, and upon what terms education is provided through their public schools; and

WHEREAS, current law penalizes communities that choose to organize their school calendar over the summer months by prohibiting state transportation reimbursement;

BE IT RESOLVED, that academic summer programs would be approved by the local trustees under the policy for student enrollment for exceptional circumstances before requesting reimbursement.

BE IT RESOLVED, that any additional county transportation reimbursement be approved by the county transportation committee;



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions

Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

~~BE IT RESOLVED, that state transportation reimbursement should be aligned with any and all viable pupil instruction, including non aggregate hour calculations for summer school instruction; and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SAM supports academic improvement through extended learning opportunities for all Montana's publically educated students that would remove the 180 day limit on state transportation reimbursement as cited in MCA 20-10-145.~~

~~Designation: Support~~

Commented [KM31]: Bill passed in 2017 that resolved this issue. Resolution no longer necessary

Resolution #16-05 – CHANGE COMPULSORY ENROLLMENT AGE FROM 7 TO 6 YEARS OLD

WHEREAS, it is well-documented that students who are provided a formal education at an earlier age have greater successes throughout their schooling; and

WHEREAS, several initiatives have been put forth in an effort to get students into schools at an early age, Montana law currently only requires compulsory enrollment at the age of 7; and

WHEREAS, this makes it difficult for schools to ensure that students are attending school. Moreover, as Montana law caps funding for students at the age of 19, compulsory enrollment beginning at 7 creates situations where students may “age out” of school, causing the potential for dropouts;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Montana Code Section 20-5-102, be amended to change the compulsory enrollment age from 7 to 6 years.

Designation: Support

Resolution #16/17-06 – ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CAREER AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION [2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HB 387]

Commented [KM32]: Contemporary legislation reference

WHEREAS, funding for Career and Vocational/Technical Education (CTE) in Montana is well below the funding levels for programs in neighboring and other western states; and

WHEREAS, state funding for career and technical education is distributed using the Carl Perkins formula, these funds are earmarked for high school programs only and no mechanism is currently available in law to fund middle school programs; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education prepares students for a wide range of careers and post-secondary education programs; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education courses provide students with life and employment skills to make them highly desirable employees in today's modern workforce; and



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

WHEREAS, the majority of jobs in the U.S. labor market now require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree; and

WHEREAS, career and technical education directly benefits not only our students, but also employers and local economies; and

WHEREAS, enrollment in career and technical education courses has been identified as a path that increases student engagement and high school graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, it is widely recognized that the foundation for these high school programs should be established in middle school; and

WHEREAS, as funding increases at the high school level it creates a larger gap between those programs and middle school options; and

WHEREAS, establishing an ongoing funding mechanism for middle school career and technical education makes minimal resources available for middle school level career and technical education offerings; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM will primarily support legislative action targeting additional funding for HS CTE programs including inflationary increases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM will support legislative action to create a funding mechanism to provide career and technical education opportunities for students in accredited middle schools that supplements but does not supplant high school funding.

Designation: Support

Resolution #16-07 – ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR MANDATED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, IDEA, as federal law, mandates a free appropriate public education for children with disabilities, ages 3-21. (Title I, B, 612, a, 1, A) with provision for State level statutory language to limit services to children with disabilities ages 18-21 (Title 1, B, 612, a, 1, B, ii); and

WHEREAS, most Montana school districts limit attendance to age 19, mandated special education services in the State typically address the needs of children with disabilities ages 3-19; and

WHEREAS, inadequate State funding of mandated special education services negatively impacts the education of all students by effectively decreasing the amount of general funds available to support general education programming;



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM will prioritize adequate funding of mandated special education services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM will prioritize support of legislative action for statutory language that includes the special education appropriation in the group of education appropriations subject to the mandatory inflationary increase; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM will prioritize support of legislative action to increase monetary investment in Cooperative infrastructure without reducing payments for the Instructional Services Block Grant, Related Services Block Grant, and the Disproportionate Cost Reimbursement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM recognizes proposals for new program entitlements for students outside the current age-range of State-funded educational programs may negatively impact funding consideration for mandated special education services; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM will prioritize support of legislative action for inflationary increases for special education and increased monetary investment in Cooperative infrastructure above advocacy efforts for new program entitlements for students outside the current age-range of State funded educational programs.

Designation: Action

Resolution #16/17/19-08 – ANB ALLOCATION FOR TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE UPGRADES

Commented [KM33]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019

WHEREAS, every school district in Montana strives to provide a quality education for every student that culminates in college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, every school district in Montana is united in the belief that all students deserve to be successful; and

WHEREAS, every school district in Montana is striving to provide 21st Century learning opportunities and needed skills; and

WHEREAS, every school district in Montana is funded through a variety of sources, but primarily by the average number of students in attendance or ANB, and

WHEREAS, Timber sales have been used to historically fund technology but that revenue stream has continued to decline and now represents a minute fraction of needed monetary resources to fuel technology; and

WHEREAS, schools are having difficulties in funding for technology and funding is not equitable across the state for upgrading, maintaining, and supporting technology hardware in schools; and



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions

Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

WHEREAS, a basic allocation per student, (e.g. Data Achievement (MCA 20-9-325)), would bring a constant revenue that school districts would support refreshing technology hardware on at least a five year cycle (industry standard). A basic annual allocation of \$50 per student over a five year span would generate \$250; which may not cover the complete cost of hardware for a student, but enough that a district can do more effective and efficient planning; and

~~WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the following costs would be associated with the resolution:~~

Cost of funding technology hardware for a five year refresh cycle	
Per student allocation of \$50 with 144,532 students (as of 2014-2015)	\$7,226,600

Commented [KM34]: Remove reference to specific numbers that would change from year to year

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SAM hereby requests that the ~~2019~~²⁰²¹ Montana Legislature increase the state's funding for technology by appropriating ~~\$7,226,600 million~~ **\$50 per student** each year for technology hardware.

Commented [KM35]: Contemporary session reference

Commented [KM36]: Remove reference to specific numbers that would change from year to year

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports an increase in funding beyond the services already allocated to support schools.

Designation: Support

Resolution #16/17-09 – SUPPORT OF ADEQUATE BANDWIDTH FOR SCHOOLS ~~[2017~~
~~Legislative Session HB 390]~~

Commented [KM37]: Eliminate reference to previous session

WHEREAS, blended classrooms that integrate technology and rich media resources have become essential in the 21st Century classroom; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Department of Education and State Education Technology Directors Association recommendations require 1Mbps per student to ensure a media rich learning environment; and

WHEREAS, many rural schools in the state cannot meet basic bandwidth requirements for state mandated online testing; and

WHEREAS, Montana represents one of the largest sectors of entrepreneurial activity in the country, demonstrating that our students will need access to digital resources to compete globally in careers and college upon graduation; and

WHEREAS, decisions on appropriate bandwidth speeds and service are best made by the administration and trustees of local school districts;

BE IT RESOLVED, the legislators will work with the Governor's office, Education Super Highway, META, and SAM ensure a minimum of 1mbs per student for all Montana public education students.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions

Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, SAM and the State of Montana will explore supporting PK-20 connectivity consortiums to allow schools to tie into the State University systems for connectivity to University classrooms and other educational resources.

Designation: Support

Resolution #16-11 – REMOVING THE LIMIT DURATION ON TECHNOLOGY LEVY FUNDING

WHEREAS, technology is an ever evolving and necessary tool in every Montana classroom; and

WHEREAS, school districts rely on technology levies to fund the network, student and staff devices, curricular and operational software purchases, as well as training, repairs and support; and

WHEREAS, in many budget years, the general fund has to cover a significant number of those costs; and

WHEREAS, General Fund budgets in many districts are limited to the base budget given local taxpayer’s avoidance of operational levies that allow districts to adopt maximum budgets, leaving District’s basic operational resources too tight to meet the needs of 21st Century classrooms;

WHEREAS, limiting a technology levy’s duration to 10 years, as well as District’s risking a previously approved perpetual technology levy may restrict a district’s ability to ensure ongoing technological integrity;

BE IT RESOLVED, section 6 will strike the 10 year maximum limitation and section 8 will be deleted from MCA 20-9-533.

Designation: Support

~~Resolution #18/19-01 – ALLOWING THE USE OF PERMISSIVE MAJOR MAINTENANCE SUBFUND OF THE BUILDING RESERVE TO SECURE AND REPAY LOANS [2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HB 247]~~

Commented [KM38]: Nomenclature indication of resolution revision change in 2019
Commented [KM39]: Contemporary legislation reference

~~**WHEREAS**, Montana’s students have the right to high quality, safe, healthy and educationally appropriate educational facilities that meet the needs of 21st Century learners as assured in Article X, Section 1 of the Montana Constitution; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, Montana’s school systems have a well documented backlog of deferred maintenance and other facility needs; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, SAM has worked with the Legislature to expand funding for capital facilities needs across the state; and~~



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
SAM Delegate Assembly 2019 Proposed Resolutions
 Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-23-19
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2019

~~WHEREAS, the 2017 Legislature provided school districts with an additional tool via MCA 20-9-520 (3) allowing local school districts to permissively levy as allowed, up to 10 mills into a Major Maintenance subfund of the Building Reserve; and~~

~~WHEREAS, due to the many years of deferred maintenance many district's have major maintenance projects that exceed the yearly funding available in the Major Maintenance subfund of the Building Reserve; and~~

~~WHEREAS, construction and repair costs for these projects tend to increase over time; and~~

~~WHEREAS, current law, MCA 20-9-503 (2) still requires the electors of the district to authorize projects and financial impositions in order to secure a loan;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM will support legislative action removing the term "the electors of" from MCA 20-9-503 sections (2a) and (2b); effectively allowing districts to secure loans utilizing the permissive funding available in the Major Maintenance subfund of the Building Reserve in order to address facility needs in a more timely and cost efficient manner.~~

~~Designation: Action~~

Commented [KM40]: HB 247 passed the 2019 Legislative session and so the resolution is no longer necessary. This was a SAM Bill!

Resolution #18-03 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

WHEREAS, many school activities and other local youth programs take place after school and many school facilities do not have outdoor lighting; and

WHEREAS, it gets dark early during the fall season;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports keeping daylight savings as is.

Designation: Support