

# School Administrators of Montana Delegate Assembly 2017 Recommendations SAM Annual Business Meeting

Billings Clocktower Hotel  
Garden Terrace Room  
10/19/2017  
4:00 to 5:00 p.m.





SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA  
*SAM Delegate Assembly 2017 Recommendations*  
*SAM Business Meeting 10-19-17*

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**SAM Advocacy Priorities by Action Designation - Delegate Assembly 2017**

SAM Delegate Assembly 2017 convened on June 16, 2017 following the review of Positions and Resolutions by affiliate caucuses on June 15, 2017. Forty-one delegates approved 39 Positions and 44 Resolutions for recommendation to the SAM membership at the annual meeting scheduled for October 19, 2017, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. during MCEL in Billings. Below are the SAM Advocacy Priorities 2017-18, as derived from a summary of Positions and Resolutions with Action designation.

**SAM Advocacy Priorities 2017-18**

- 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

**POSITIONS with Action Designation**

Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding

**MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY**

SAM supports the Montana Digital Academy and continued full funding by the state to guarantee equitable access to educational curriculum.

Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators

**TEACHER & ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

SAM affirms that teacher and administrator retention and recruitment are keys to quality education. It supports efforts to support mentoring and to fund incentives for recruitment and retention of staff. Districts are faced with an increasing need to compete with other states for a shrinking pool of qualified candidates. The legislature must address current laws, administrative rules, and funding support to provide districts the flexibility to retain personnel and to compete for new candidates.

**PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE**

SAM will seek legislative changes to find a method for relief to health insurance costs.

Oppose Privatization with Public Funds

**NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND HOME SCHOOLS**



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SAM supports legislation that strengthens the accountability of non-public schools and home schools in Montana.

**NON-PUBLIC AND HOME SCHOOL FUNDING (PK-12)**

SAM opposes any legislation or initiatives, which would allow for vouchers, tuition tax credits, tax savings accounts, or any other funding plans for any non-public and home PK-12 schools.

Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure

**TECHNOLOGY**

SAM believes technology is now and will forever be an integral part of our culture and presents ever changing challenges and opportunities for our students. Schools throughout Montana struggle to finance critical technology infrastructure. Educational services requiring technology are not available to all Montana Students. Therefore SAM will support:

- Administrative, operational and learning process change at the federal, state, district and school levels must be addressed strategically where goals, resources and timing for improvement are managed cohesively.
- Baseline funding for supportive technology infrastructure should be addressed by a variety of methods that include; mechanisms that account for life cycle cost of ownership, technology that is driven by changes in classroom and/or curricular needs, and operational technology related to business function necessary to run a school district (i.e. State reporting, security systems, telecommunications, etc). Districts would be encouraged to fund additional infrastructure and capabilities as demanded by their environments.
- Technology education for administrators, staff and students is timely, relevant, and compulsory.
- The management of technology requires a baseline of understanding and education. School administrators and leaders need support in specific process and technology implementation management.
- Technology planning, implementation and support functions, requiring specialized skills and knowledge, are accomplished by professional staff or contracted consultants according to specific district business models.

**RESOLUTIONS with Action Designation**

Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding

**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



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**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;

**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.

**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.

**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



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**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.

**Resolution #15/17-01- SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING, CLOSING THE GAP [2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HJ 1]**

**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

**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.

**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



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**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;

**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.

Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators

**Resolution #10/16-01 – 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

**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



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**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

**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.

Oppose Privatization with Public Funds

**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





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**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.

**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.*

**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; 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;



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

Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure

**Resolution #13/15-01 – CAPITAL FACILITY NEEDS** [2017 Legislative Session SB 307, SB 260]

**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.

Support School Based Mental Health Services

**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



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**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.



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## Summary of SAM Delegate Assembly 2017 Actions

SAM Delegate Assembly 2017 convened on June 16, 2017 following the review of Positions and Resolutions by affiliate caucuses on June 15, 2017. Forty-one delegates approved 39 Positions and 44 Resolutions for recommendation to the SAM membership at the annual meeting scheduled for October 19, 2017, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. during MCEL in Billings. Below is a summary of major and new actions on those Positions and Resolutions.

## POSITIONS

### **POSITIONS PREAMBLE**

Delegates approved revisions to the preamble through 2019.

### **LICENSURE**

Delegates approved removing language referring to “highly qualified” because this language is no longer used for federal program definitions.

### **MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY**

Delegates approved changing designation from Support to Action.

### **STUDENT DATA WAREHOUSE**

Delegates approved language adding “secure” to the statewide data warehouse definition.

### **TAXES**

Delegates approved additional language to oppose funding formulas shifting the burden onto local taxpayers.

## RESOLUTIONS

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

Delegates approved language revisions to address mental health services and changed the designation from Support to Action.

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

Delegates approved language revisions to the title of the resolution.

### **Resolution #02/12/14/17-03 – VOUCHERS, TUITION TAX CREDITS, TAX SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS (OTHER THAN AS DEFINED IN ARM 10-55-604)**

Delegates approved language revisions clarifying non-discrimination.



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

Delegates approved clarifying language on referencing inadequate state funding for mandated services requesting full state and federal funding for mandated services with parallel increases to ANB funding.

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

Delegates approved to additional Federal issues -- Montana Congressional Delegation to ensure that the USAC E-rate program stays fully funded to ensure equitable and adequate bandwidth to every student; and that SAM supports Net Neutrality (non-differential of rates for the open Internet). Added language to consider the impact of federal funding reductions to Carl Perkins, Impact Aid, and Medicaid Reimbursement.

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

Delegates approved language to modernize the reference to the Montana Educator Performance Appraisal System (EPAS) state models for teacher and administrator evaluation.

**Resolution #15/17-01- SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING, CLOSING THE GAP**

Delegates approved language revisions to state that historically state and federal legislative increases for special education funding have been infrequent and wholly inadequate.

**Resolution #16-04 – ANB PAYMENT MODIFICATION FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Delegates approved striking this resolution with a request to the resolution submitter to modify school funding so the per ANB payment for 6<sup>th</sup> graders being the same as that for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders with language that is contemporary moving into the future (there were references to funding in 2015 and other antiquated number in this resolution).

**Resolution #16/17-06 – ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CAREER AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Delegates approved a rewrite of this resolution to modernize the language beyond the 2017 legislative session references. The resolution indicates primary support for additional funding for HS CTE programs including inflationary increases, and also supports action to create a funding mechanism to support CTE in accredited middle schools that supplements but does not supplant HS funding.

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

Delegates approved language to strike reference to 2017 and replace with 2019.

**Resolution #16/17-09 – SUPPORT OF ~~MINIMUM~~ ADEQUATE BANDWIDTH FOR SCHOOLS**

Delegates approved language revision in the title to reference adequate, rather than minimum, bandwidth.



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**DRAFT Mintutes of SAM Delegate Assembly 2017**

The meeting was called to order by SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee Chairman Rick Duncan at 8:35 a.m. A roll call commenced certifying 41 delegates present. (A copy of the sign in sheet is attached to these minutes). Following opening remarks by the SAM Delegate Steering Committee Chair, Rick Duncan, introductions and a review of the rules and procedures were provided.

Delegate Assembly then commenced with consideration of School Administrators of Montana Position Statements (attached).

The SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee made the motion on each position. Each position motion received a second.

The following **SAM Positions** were carried as presented by vote by the Delegate Assembly with the appropriate action identified:

<b>Title</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Vote</b>
POSITIONS PREAMBLE	Paul Furthmyre	Passed Unanimously
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT	Scott Chauvet	Passed Unanimously
CULTURAL STUDIES	Peter Hamilton	Passed Unanimously
FOCUS ON THE WHOLE CHILD	Ken Larson	Passed Unanimously
SAFE, RESPECTFUL, DRUG FREE, AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS	Dan Kimzey	Passed Unanimously
SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	Kristin Wagner	META Discussion on modernizing language for the future MASS discussion on local decision vs state level Passed Unanimously
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS	Carole McKittrick	Passed Unanimously
CONTINUITY OF LEADERSHIP	Tobin Novasio	Passed Unanimously
COOPERATION IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS	Loren Dunk	Passed Unanimously
DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM	Mike Perry	Passed Unanimously
EDUCATION OF COMMUNITIES AND LEGISLATORS	Shelly Weight	Passed Unanimously
LICENSURE	Pam Meier	MASS amendment to delete the language of “highly qualified” as this is no longer in the definitions for Title Programs.



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<b>Title</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Vote</b>
		Motion by Heather Davis-Schmidt to approve the amendment; seconded by Bart Hawkins Passed Unanimously Passed Unanimously
MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY	Jack Eggensperger	MASSP to change designation from support to action Motion by Paul Furthmyre to approve the amendment; seconded by Todd Lark Passed Unanimously Passed Unanimously
MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION	Peter Hamilton	Passed Unanimously
NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Susan Johnson	Passed Unanimously
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT	Jessica McWilliams	Passed Unanimously
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE RULE MAKING	Tamra Covington	Passed Unanimously
STUDENT CAREER PREPARATION	Chad Sealey	Passed Unanimously
STUDENT DATA WAREHOUSE	Jack Eggensperger	META amendment to add “secure” language to statewide data warehouse. Passed Unanimously Passed Unanimously
TEACHER & ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION	Paul Furthmyre	Passed Unanimously
TEACHER EDUCATION	Shelly Andres	Passed Unanimously
PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE	Cathy Sessions	Passed Unanimously
REGIONAL SERVICE AGENCY STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE DEFINED IN LAW	Todd Lark	Passed Unanimously
SUPPORT OF TRAINING FOR FEDERAL E-RATE REIMBURSEMENT	Brad Somers	Passed Unanimously
CENSORSHIP	Heather Davis-Schmidt	Passed Unanimously
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING	Erica Allen	Passed Unanimously
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS	Scott Chauvet	Passed Unanimously



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Title	Second	Vote
LEAD TEACHER/COMMITTEE OF TEACHERS	Jessica McWilliams	Passed Unanimously
Jessica PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS	Steve Fanning	Passed Unanimously
SCHOOL BOARD RELATIONS	Jon Konen	Passed Unanimously
FEDERAL PROGRAMS	Jack Eggensperger	Passed Unanimously
FUNDING OF PK-12	Bruce Whitehead	Passed Unanimously
NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING (PK-12)	Dan Kimzey	Passed Unanimously
RETIREMENT SYSTEM	Susan Johnson	Passed Unanimously
TAXES	Paul Furthmyre	<p>MASS amendment to add language in opposing shifting tax burden onto the local taxpayers based on legislative action</p> <p><del>Motion by Heather Davis-Schmidt to approve this addition; seconded by Renee Rasmussen</del> WITHDRAWN</p> <p>Motion by Heather Davis-Schmidt to amend the amendment to still approve the additional language and to keep the designation of support, not change to action; seconded by Renee Rasmussen</p> <p>FOR – 38; AGAINST – 3 ON AMENDMENT            FOR – 39; AGAINST – 2 ON ORIGINAL MOTION</p>
TECHNOLOGY	Todd Lark	Passed Unanimously
UNFUNDED MANDATES	Jon Konen	Passed Unanimously
CERTIFIED TAXABLE VALUATION	Peter Hamilton	Passed Unanimously
K-12 VISION GROUP	Cathy Sessions	Passed Unanimously

The following **SAM Resolutions** were considered in order of presentation, discussed by the delegates, and voted upon as indicated.

The SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee made the motion on each resolution. Each resolution motion received a second.





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The following **SAM resolutions** were carried as presented by vote by the Delegate Assembly with the appropriate action identified:

RESOLUTION NUMBER	TITLE	SECOND	VOTE
#99/03/08/10-01	REQUIRED ATTENDANCE	Shelly Andres	Passed Unanimously
#99/12-02	FINGERPRINTING, BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE CHECKS	Jessica McWilliams	Passed Unanimously
#99/02/06/07/16-08	SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES	Carole McKittrick	MCASE amendment to change language and change designation from support to action Motion by Tamra Covington to approve this amendment; seconded by Lisa Von Bergen META discussion – lack of services, not just lack of funding Passed Unanimously on Amendment Passed Unanimously on Original Motion
#00/15-09	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Todd Lark	Passed Unanimously
#00/03/05/14-10	ANB FUNDING FOR 19 YEAR OLDS	Rich Lawrence	META proposed amendment to change designation from support to action WITHDRAWN Passed Unanimously
#01/03/06/08/09/10 /14-01	FUNDING	Carole McKittrick	Passed Unanimously
#01/03/14-02	RETIREMENT	Chad Sealey	META amendment to consider adding PERS language in the future for a possible new resolution to address this Passed Unanimously
#01-04	PERMISSIVE FUNDING FOR HIGH IMPACT COSTS	Michelle Halberg	Passed Unanimously
#01/03/05/12/14/15 -07	TESTING AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT	Jack Eggensperger	MAEMSP discussion on multiple measures/assessment indicators and possible amendment? Kirk provided a current ESSA review.  MAEMSP Amendment to revise title to read Student Achievement and Assessment. Passed Unanimously on Amendment Passed Unanimously on Original Motion



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RESOLUTION NUMBER	TITLE	SECOND	VOTE
#02/12/14-03	VOUCHERS, TUITION TAX CREDITS, TAX SAVINGS ACCOUNT, AND CHARTER SCHOOLS (OTHER THAN AS DEFINED IN ARM 10-55-604)	Jon Konen	MCASE amendment to add language - Motion by Tamra Covington to approve addition of language to include discrimination; seconded by Michelle Halberg  Motion by Heather Davis Schmidt to striking language and just add semicolon after discrimination; seconded by Todd Lark  Passed Unanimously on Amendment to the amendment Passed Unanimously on Amendment Passed Unanimously on Original Motion
#03-01	SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING	Cheryl Russell	Passed Unanimously
#03/06/11/16-02	ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR MANDATED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	Michelle Halberg	MCASE amendment with revised language to indicate inadequate state funding and parallel funding increases to ANB funding. Motion by Tamra Covington to approve the addition of language/strikeouts; seconded by Michelle Halberg  Passed Unanimously on Amendment FOR – 40 AGAINST – 1 on original motion
#03/04/06/14-03	INSTRUCTIONAL TIME AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS	Shelly Weight	Passed Unanimously
#03/05/06/10-05	COOPERATING PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	Kristin Wagner	Passed Unanimously
#03/05-06	HOME SCHOOLS	Carole McKittrick	Passed Unanimously
#03/05/14-08	FEDERAL PROGRAM RETIREMENT FUNDING	Ken Larson	Passed Unanimously
#04/14/16-02	PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS	Susan Johnson	Passed Unanimously.
#04/14-03	SUMMER/AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS	Peter Hamilton	Passed Unanimously



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RESOLUTION NUMBER	TITLE	SECOND	VOTE
#05/09-03	CARL PERKINS AND HIGH SCHOOL CAREER AND TECHNICAL REFORM FUNDING	Chad Sealey	Passed Unanimously
#06-02	PARENT INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTERS	Erica Allen	Passed Unanimously
#08/12-01	EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR DETAINED STUDENTS	Peter Hamilton	Passed Unanimously
#10-01	UNIFIED RECRUITMENT & RETENTION	Shelley Andres	Passed Unanimously
#10-03	MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATIONS	Bruce Whitehead	Passed Unanimously
#11/14-01	ADMINISTRATOR EVALUATION	Susan Johnson	Passed Unanimously
#12/13-01	PRINCIPAL/ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ASSIGNMENT	Peter Hamilton	Passed Unanimously
#12/13-03	SCHOOL PRIVATIZATION WITH PUBLIC FUNDS LEGISLATION	Carole McKittrick	Passed Unanimously
#13-01	CAPITAL FACILITY NEEDS	Dan Kimzey	Passed Unanimously
#13/14-02	ALIGNMENT OF ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND FUNDING	Cathy Sessions	Passed Unanimously
#13/14/15-03	MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS	Heather Davis-Schmidt	Passed Unanimously
#13/14-04	FEDERAL ISSUES IMPORTANT TO MONTANA	Paul Furthmyre	META amendment with net neutrality – open net. Add support of erate at congressional level Motion by Todd Lark to approve the amendment; seconded by Glenn Wehe Motion by Heather Davis-Schmidt to add to 3 <sup>rd</sup> line Carl Perkins, Impact Aid, Medicaid; seconded by Glenn Wehe Passed Unanimously on amendment Passed Unanimously on 2 <sup>nd</sup> amendment Passed Unanimously on Original Motion
#13-07	PROFESSIONAL LEARNING	Carole McKittrick	Passed Unanimously.
#14-04	FUNDING SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE	Renee Rasmussen	Passed Unanimously



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RESOLUTION NUMBER	TITLE		VOTE
#15-01	SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING, CLOSING THE GAP	Peter Hamilton	MASS Amendment Motion by Heather Davis-Schmidt to add the congressional delegation and state and federal legislative funding; strikeout language; seconded by Tobin Novasio.  Passed Unanimously on Amendment Passed Unanimously on Original Motion
#15-08	KINDERGARTEN AS PART OF COMPULSORY EDUCATION	Carole McKittrick	Passed Unanimously
#16-01	ONLINE VERIFICATION AND GRACE PERIOD FOR REGISTERING EDUCATOR LICENSE	Cathy Sessions	
#16-02	STATE TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL	Tobin Novasio	MACSS does support but some of the logisitics might need to change in the future  Passed Unanimously
#16-04	ANB PAYMENT MODIFICATION FOR 6TH GRADE		Motion by Mike Perry to accept the steering committee's recommendation to strike and send back to original author; seconded by Todd Lark  Passed
#16-05	CHANGE COMPULSORY ENROLLMENT AGE FROM 7 TO 6 YEARS OLD	Jack Eggensperger	Passed
#16-06	ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CAREER AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION		Motion by Chad Sealey to accept the recommendation by the steering committee; seconded by Renee  MASS Rewrite – Amendment Motion by Tobin Novasio to approve the resolution as rewritten; seconded by Renee Seconded.  Passed Unanimously on approval of rewrite amendment



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			Passed Unanimously on the Original Motion
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RESOLUTION NUMBER	TITLE	SECOND	VOTE
#16-07 Submitted by MCASE	ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR MANDATED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES	Erica Allen	Passed Unanimously
#16-08 Submitted by MAEMSP	ANB ALLOCATION FOR TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE UPGRADES	Rich Lawrence	Motion by Todd Lark to update year; seconded by Hatton Littman;  Discussion to update amount and number of students in the future  Passed unanimously on Amendment Passed unanimously on Original Motion
#16-09 Submitted by META	SUPPORT OF MIMIMUM BANDWIDTH FOR SCHOOLS	Jack Eggensperger	Passed Unanimously
#16-11 Submitted by META	REMOVING THE LIMIT DURATION ON TECHNOLOGY LEVY FUNDING	Hatton Littman	META amendment – change designation from support to action  Motion by Todd Lark to approve designation change; seconded by Jon Konen  Amendment Fails Passed Unanimously on Original Motion

Call for and further actions to be considered by the SAM Delegate Assembly 2017 - None

**The ACTION designations coming from 2017 Delegate Assembly:**

***Positions:***

- Taxes
- Montana Digital Academy

***Resolutions:***

- School Based Mental Health
- Special Ed Funding
- Recruitment and Retention
- Opposition to Privatization - Vouchers, Tuition Tax Credits, Tax Savings Account, and Charter Schools (other than defined in ARM 10-55-604)
- Capital Facility Needs



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Delegate Assembly 2017 concluded at 11:29 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick R. Audet  
Associate Director, SAM



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**POSITION STATEMENTS Approved by SAM Delegate Assembly 2017**

It is the role of the Delegate Assembly to bring before the membership timely and important resolutions which will, upon adoption, serve as the platform for action.

Any reference to ‘non-public schools’ throughout the document also includes home schools.

**POSITIONS PREAMBLE**

SAM (The School Administrators of Montana) is an organization that is student centered, constantly looking for ways to improve the educational climate within the state. SAM has put a great deal of thought and discussion into various issues that affect the students and education in general in this great state. Public schools are endeavoring to provide the best education possible for all students; to this degree the organization has taken a stand on certain issues. The positions and resolutions relative to many concerns are listed on the following pages.

**Part I. BE IT RESOLVED**, that SAM develop and adopt a position that will carry forward year to year through the 2019 Legislative Session, specifying the process to be followed and the topics to be addressed by the K-12 Vision Group.

**Part II. BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee recommends that the resolutions be carried over for further review and discussion through the next year in preparation for the 2018 Delegate Assembly, assign a designation and undertake the actions called for under such Positions and Resolutions. In no case should these resolutions be seen as SAM priorities that are segregated from the considerations in Part I.

**Part III. BE IT RESOLVED**, that SAM establish new Resolutions adopted by the membership, assign a designation and undertake the actions called for under such Resolutions in the same manner and subject to the same limitations as recommended for resolutions approved by the membership under Part II above.

**STUDENT ISSUES**

**CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

SAM supports efforts designed to: (a) educate school district personnel in recognizing and reporting symptoms of child abuse and neglect and (b) enable school districts and other community agencies to integrate services in carrying out their legal responsibility for these children in a school setting.

Designation: Support

**CULTURAL STUDIES**

SAM supports curriculum pertaining to diversity and cultural studies as well as the establishment of local policies concerning curriculum development, which would enhance the education of all Montana students.

Designation: Support

**FOCUS ON THE WHOLE CHILD**

SAM believes that the child is the focal point of the educational process and the primary focus should be on student learning and academic rigor. It is the responsibility of the school administrators to facilitate the direction of available skills and resources toward helping each child develop a positive self image and to strengthen feelings of self-worth through academic rigor and social emotional learning.



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SAM urges all groups involved in the educational process of children to work in unity for the total development of the child and providing opportunities by which each child may realize his/her fullest potential.

Designation: Support

**SAFE, RESPECTFUL, DRUG FREE, AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS**

SAM supports and promotes legislation (including IDEA reform) and funding that addresses violence, discipline, respect and security in public schools as well as funding for such IDEA mandates as alternative interim educational settings. SAM further supports programs such as Montana Behavior Initiative; school based mental health and day treatment services as integral components of the continuum for safe and healthy schools. SAM supports and promotes safe, respectful, drug free (including medical marijuana-free), healthy schools and the continuation of federal and any additional funding for such programs.

Designation: Support

**SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

SAM supports compulsory education and daily attendance of all school age children. SAM supports legislation to strengthen truancy laws by increasing parent and student accountability and by establishing clear enforcement procedures.

Designation: Support

**STATEWIDE ISSUES**

**ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

SAM supports the implementation and maintenance of strong educationally sound accreditation standards and supports the position that the State Board of Public Education decisions be made with input from all sectors concerned with education. No action should be taken that will affect schools until all concerned are given notice and are provided with the opportunity to be heard through public hearings. Changes affecting fiscal responsibility should not take effect until adequate resources are provided to the school districts.

Designation: Support

**CONTINUITY OF LEADERSHIP**

SAM believes and research has confirmed that continuity of school and district leadership is essential for the continuous improvement of educational quality. SAM supports legislation and practice which will require multi-year superintendent contracts after the initial year of service, provide for longer multi-year contracts for superintendents, link superintendent evaluations to the accomplishment of district goals, and institute a mediation system to help solve problems between a board and its superintendent.

Designation: Support





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**COOPERATION IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Education costs are a continuing concern. SAM urges the state to continue to encourage the use of cost effective and educationally effective cooperative efforts, programs and services among educational institutions and state agencies which serve children.

Designation: Support

**DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULUM**

SAM supports OPI's ongoing development of model curriculum, materials, and assessments aligned to National and State adopted Content, Program and Performance Standards. This development will be done collaboratively with national content area organizations and state education leadership associations.

Designation: Support

**EDUCATION OF COMMUNITIES AND LEGISLATORS**

SAM supports an ongoing community forum to inform and educate all stakeholders, including legislators, about PK-12 education in our local communities.

Designation: Support

**LICENSURE**

SAM believes that it is the responsibility of the State Board of Public Education to determine the rules and regulations for the consistency of licensing of teachers and administrators with the advice of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC). The Office of Public Instruction shall administer and continuously review the licensing of teachers and administrators and not permit any endorsement issued to be eliminated. SAM reviews and remains involved in the regulation of related service providers licensed through the Department of Labor and Industry. Licensure of professional educators is required to offer services in Montana schools.

Designation: Support

**MONTANA DIGITAL ACADEMY**

SAM supports the Montana Digital Academy and continued full funding by the state to guarantee equitable access to educational curriculum.

Designation: Action

**MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

SAM supports the Montana High School Association concept and opposes the Montana High School Association becoming a part of the Office of Public Instruction or an agency of the State Legislature.

Designation: Support



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**NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND HOME SCHOOLS**

SAM supports legislation that strengthens the accountability of non-public schools and home schools in Montana.

Designation: Action

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

SAM recognizes and encourages efforts to support school improvement and acknowledges that several models can be viable approaches to educational improvement. SAM believes that such efforts must not detract from the educational quality, equity, and funding available to the other students in the state. Furthermore, SAM strongly opposes the arbitrary removal of the school administrator(s) as a means of school improvement.

Designation: Support

**SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATIVE RULE MAKING**

SAM supports state administrative rules for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that do not exceed the requirements in the federal laws and rules.

Designation: Support

**STUDENT CAREER PREPARATION**

SAM recognizes the importance of the development of career/technical skills and strong work ethics in all students. SAM supports the formation of career preparation and school-to-work programs in partnership with other agencies, post-secondary institutions, and business. SAM expects that public schools will be fully involved in all planning and implementation of these programs.

Designation: Support

**STUDENT DATA WAREHOUSE**

SAM supports the use of a secure statewide data warehouse that the Office of Public Instruction uses for the maintenance of student academic records and longitudinal data.

Designation: Support

**TEACHER & ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION**

SAM affirms that teacher and administrator retention and recruitment are keys to quality education. It supports efforts to support mentoring and to fund incentives for recruitment and retention of staff. Districts are faced with an increasing need to compete with other states for a shrinking pool of qualified candidates. The legislature must address current laws, administrative rules, and funding support to provide districts the flexibility to retain personnel and to compete for new candidates.

Designation: Action



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**TEACHER EDUCATION**

SAM recognizes the growing level of diverse educational needs of students. SAM urges Montana's teacher education programs to better prepare teachers to competently address the diverse educational needs of all students.

Designation: Support

**PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE**

SAM will seek legislative changes to find a method for relief to health insurance costs.

Designation: Action

**REGIONAL SERVICE AGENCY STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE DEFINED IN LAW**

SAM will work in collaboration with other public education advocacy groups in developing necessary guidelines, policies, structures and other resources to assist school districts in establishing/structuring/implementing regional service center areas to maximize efficiencies and optimize resources under existing law.

Designation: Support

**SUPPORT OF TRAINING FOR FEDERAL E-RATE REIMBURSEMENT**

SAM will support a model for training for E-Rate applications and submittal to leverage expertise to ensure every district in Montana is taking advantage of the Federal E-Rate funding.

Designation: Support

**LOCAL CONTROL ISSUES**

**CENSORSHIP**

SAM reaffirms its position to oppose any legislative action that removes local control of written, printed, and/or electronically transmitted publications by students.

Designation: Support

**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

SAM supports the position that the direction of collective bargaining should be retained at state and local levels in a manner that does not mitigate the policy-making authority of local boards of trustees. Collective bargaining should be limited to salary, hours, fringe benefits, and directly related financial conditions of employment and grievance procedures. Arbitration should be limited to matters of contract interpretation and should not be used to settle a negotiation impasse. Collective bargaining legislation and/or contracts should include adequate provisions for the resolution of unfair practices and provide for adequate protection of employer and employee rights.

Designation: Support

**COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS**

SAM affirms that counties should have a qualified county superintendent.



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Designation: Support

**LEAD TEACHER/COMMITTEE OF TEACHERS**

SAM believes that all teachers should have the benefit of working with effective administrators. SAM opposes the concepts of a lead teacher or a committee of teachers as a substitute for the school administrator. Small rural schools with nine or fewer FTE licensed staff and without a licensed superintendent as per 10.55.705(1) fall under the office of the county superintendent to provide administrative services.

Designation: Support

**PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS**

SAM will endeavor to work cooperatively with staff and educational associations on issues of common concern. Through a joint, cooperative effort the organization will continue striving to improve education in the state of Montana.

Designation: Support

**SCHOOL BOARD RELATIONS**

SAM believes that school administrators and their school trustees share a commitment and a responsibility to work cooperatively toward a common goal of developing effective educational programs for Montana youth. To achieve this goal, it is imperative that trustees and administrators foster and nurture a sense of trust and respect individually and collectively for each other. Full and open communication is essential between them if their common goal is to be attained. If trustees and administrators are to succeed in their efforts to provide the best educational opportunity for students, they must strive to understand and appreciate their respective leadership roles.

Designation: Support

**FUNDING ISSUES**

**FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

Federally funded programs should be written in language that ensures easy understanding, minimum paperwork, maximum student-to-teacher contact and interaction, and which allows for local districts to expend allocated funds on eligible students in a manner which they, the local districts, feel most beneficial. It is incumbent on local boards and their administrators to insure that the intent of federal programs is properly implemented and that programs are managed with fiscal and educational integrity.

To enable Montana schools to benefit from various sources of federal funding, SAM supports legislative efforts to pool applications and reporting requirements for receipt of these federal funds.

To ensure equitable funding to all Montana students, SAM supports formula grants instead of competitive grants. SAM will encourage our federal and state legislators to work to this end.

Designation: Support



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**FUNDING OF PK-12**

SAM believes that educational opportunities should continue to be based on equal opportunity, equity and adequacy in funding and therefore supports the following:

- state funding for schools should be 100% of the BASE budget for the school district general fund budget;
- all federal and state programs be fully funded (no unfunded mandates);
- all components of state funding be increased on a yearly basis to reflect the effect of inflation;
- funding of public alternative educational programs;
- maintaining, stabilizing and/or increasing state and federal funding for existing PK-12 programs.
- the state general fund will not be supplanted with educationally targeted federal funds.

Designation: Support

**NON-PUBLIC AND HOME SCHOOL FUNDING (PK-12)**

SAM opposes any legislation or initiatives, which would allow for vouchers, tuition tax credits, tax savings accounts, or any other funding plans for any non-public and home PK-12 schools.

Designation: Action

**RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

SAM supports efforts to protect the integrity of current retirement systems. SAM supports efforts to make the system more equitable for career administrators, hard to fill positions and to provide creative ways to retain senior administrators without benefit reduction.

Designation: Support

**TAXES**

SAM supports the position that the Legislature should enact a balanced taxing system for the state of Montana. The financial investment in public education should be based upon equitable and appropriate taxes, and opposes funding formulas shifting the burden onto the local taxpayers.

Designation: Support

**TECHNOLOGY**

SAM believes technology is now and will forever be an integral part of our culture and presents ever changing challenges and opportunities for our students. Schools throughout Montana struggle to finance critical technology infrastructure. Educational services requiring technology are not available to all Montana Students. Therefore SAM will support:

- Administrative, operational and learning process change at the federal, state, district and school levels must be addressed strategically where goals, resources and timing for improvement are managed cohesively.
- Baseline funding for supportive technology infrastructure should be addressed by a variety of methods that include; mechanisms that account for life cycle cost of ownership, technology that is driven by changes in classroom and/or curricular needs, and operational technology related to business function necessary to run



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a school district (i.e. State reporting, security systems, telecommunications, etc). Districts would be encouraged to fund additional infrastructure and capabilities as demanded by their environments.

- Technology education for administrators, staff and students is timely, relevant, and compulsory.
- The management of technology requires a baseline of understanding and education. School administrators and leaders need support in specific process and technology implementation management.
- Technology planning, implementation and support functions, requiring specialized skills and knowledge, are accomplished by professional staff or contracted consultants according to specific district business models.

Designation: Action

### **UNFUNDED MANDATES**

SAM opposes any legislation that mandates services, programs, or processes without providing full funding.

Designation: Support

### **CERTIFIED TAXABLE VALUATION**

SAM supports efforts to strengthen notification and accountability for all state and county agencies involved in establishing taxable valuation of school district taxing jurisdictions. Once taxable valuation of the taxing jurisdiction is certified, all stakeholders must be notified.

SAM supports requiring that if there is a change to a county taxable valuation after the certification is approved, the Montana Department of Revenue shall notify all effected school districts within seven (7) days of the change.

SAM supports efforts to strengthen accountability for entities responsible for errors in reporting taxable value changes made past the certification date.

Designation: Support

### **K-12 Vision Group**

#### **SAM specifies the following ongoing process for convening the K-12 Vision Group, 2013-2019**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that SAM take the following position with regard to school the K-12 Vision Group and funding of Montana's schools:

1. SAM will continue to participate in the K-12 Vision Group on an ongoing basis through the 2019 Legislative Session to provide continuing guidance and recommendations aligned with the "Vision for Public Education in Montana" developed by the K-12 Vision Group in 2012. The work of the K-12 Vision group shall be designed to culminate with consensus recommendations regarding the definition of the basic system of free quality schools that is scheduled to be reviewed by the Legislature during the 2019 Legislative Session pursuant to 20-9-309, MCA.
2. The membership of the K-12 Vision Group will continue to include trustees, business managers, teachers and administrators representing all MTSBA caucus groups and shall be annually revised and/or renewed prior to November 1, to incorporate nominations from the School Administrators of Montana (SAM), Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA), Montana Rural Education Association (MREA), MEA-MFT, Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), and Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC).



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3. SAM shall extend the opportunity for full collaborative partnerships in facilitating the ongoing work of the K-12 Vision Group to MTSBA, MEA-MFT, MREA, MQEC and MASBO.
4. SAM supports that MTSBA shall facilitate the K-12 Vision Group's work using knowledge-based decision making processes, emphasizing careful, deliberate and comprehensive analysis of issues, the use of open dialogue (the purpose of which is to inform) prior to deliberation (the purpose of which is to decide), pursuit of insight regarding what the involved groups' members want, need and prefer, and consideration of the ethical implications of our choices and mitigation of disadvantage to certain aspects of the respective groups' members that might be caused by recommendations made by the K-12 Vision Group.
5. SAM and Affiliate Associations shall seek to collaborate with and inform legislators from both political parties as well as key representatives of the offices of the Governor, the Board of Public Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the progress and ongoing work of the K-12 Vision Group to ensure open communications and the availability of legislative and executive branch perspectives regarding such work.
6. SAM and Affiliate Associations shall start to engage other external stakeholders outside of public education circles to increase awareness of the work of the K-12 Vision Group and to identify common interests and goals and opportunities for collaboration. There should be no static identification of "outside interest" groups but rather a process for highlighting broad public awareness of the work of the K-12 Vision Group and emphasizing an open invitation for the public to weigh in on such work. This might be accomplished, for example, through a combination of public opinion polling, facilitated community dialogue, outreach to business, higher education and other community leaders and public awareness campaigns. The key will be to ensure that we generate broad public support for the recommendations of the K-12 Vision Group over time.
7. The work of the K-12 Vision Group shall be focused on the following:
  - a. A global look at the current funding formula for schools with an eye toward determining how the formula could be simplified, made more responsive to need, equitable and adequate to allow schools throughout the state to provide the basic system of free quality schools as that term is defined in 20-9-309, MCA. Specifics to be reviewed as part of the global look at the formula shall include:
    - i. Whether the formula sufficiently promotes local control. If not, recommendations should be developed regarding how the formula could be improved to better vest authority in the elected trustees to make financial decisions.
    - ii. Review of weighting adjustments in current formula and identification of possible enhancements. This inquiry shall include analysis of what other states do to account for economies of scale and address needs of school systems in different circumstances.
    - iii. Whether the current formula is sufficiently responsive to the educationally-relevant factors identified in 20-9-309, MCA, including:
      1. the number of students in a district;
      2. the needs of isolated schools with low population density;
      3. the needs of urban schools with high population density;
      4. the needs of students with special needs, such as a child with a disability, an at-risk student, a student with limited English proficiency, a child who is qualified for services under 29 U.S.C. 794, and gifted and talented children;
      5. the needs of American Indian students; and
      6. the ability of school districts to attract and retain qualified educators and other personnel.
    - iv. Recommendations regarding how the varying challenges experienced by different school districts throughout the state of Montana can be met to ensure that the needs of every child can be met.
    - v. Whether there is a practical way to better predict and incorporate relevant inflation into the formula that is based on the predominant expenditures of school districts.
  - b. As part of its work in identifying a simple, adequate, equitable and rational funding formula, the K-12 Vision Group shall undertake the following:



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- i. Review of the differential that exists between current funding and funding necessary to meet the definition of the basic system of free quality schools under 20-9-309, MCA.
- ii. Revenue necessary to eliminate the differential;
- iii. A long range plan to eliminate the differential; and
- iv. A communications plan to create the political will to accomplish the elimination of the differential.

Designation: Support





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**RESOLUTIONS Approved by SAM Delegate Assembly 2017**

**(From this point forward School Administrators of Montana shall be referred to as SAM)**

**Resolution #99/03/08/10-01 - 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;

**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 legislative action to increase the monetary fine for truancy of not less than \$200 and not more than \$500, and assign the authority to the appropriate local/county legal system to enforce; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SAM supports legislative action to involve Child Protective Services for truancy and assign the authority to the appropriate local/county legal system to enforce; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that SAM supports legislative action to involve local/county legal systems which has the authority to suspend/revoke a student's driving privileges.

**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.

**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



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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**

**Resolution #00/15/16-09 –PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

**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 or equivalent training opportunities.

**Designation: Support**



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**Resolution #00/03/05/14/15/16-10- 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 10<sup>th</sup>; 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, etc.; 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 #01/03/06/08/09/10/14/16-01 – FUNDING**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Montana chooses not to distribute revenue to adequately fund K-12 education; and

**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



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**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 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**

**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 #01-04 – 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.



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**Designation: Support**

**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.

**Designation: Support**



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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;

**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**



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**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

**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;



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**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

**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 #04/14/16-02 – PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS [2017 Legislative Session HB 639]**

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

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that SAM supports the development of additional and continued fully funded universal pre-school programs in Montana; and

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





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**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

**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



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**WHEREAS**, some households within our communities may lack the awareness, knowledge and/or confidence to support effectively students' 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.

**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 #10/16-01 – 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

**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



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**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 #10/16-03 – MEDICAL MARIJUANA REGULATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, SAM has always supported safe, 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;

**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.



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**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.

**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**



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**Resolution #13/15-01 – CAPITAL FACILITY NEEDS** [2017 Legislative Session SB 307, SB 260]

**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 #13/14-02 – 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.

**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



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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 #13/14/17-04 – 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

**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

**BE IT FURTHER 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 FURTHER 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



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**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;

**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 1]**

**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



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**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 #16-01 – 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 communication to the County Superintendent of Schools to initiate online verification of certificate through MSIS and/or the TEAMS/FTE Report up to the November 1 teacher assignment deadline.

**Designation: Support**





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**Resolution #16-02 – STATE TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL**

**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;

**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**



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**Resolution #16-04—ANB PAYMENT MODIFICATION FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

Requesting a rewrite from the submitter of the Resolution to make the language more contemporary to future needs.

**WHEREAS**, schools are funded in the State of Montana through a variety of sources. The Montana Legislature funds public schools in part based on the number of students in attendance in a school district. For school funding purposes, the number of students enrolled in school is referred to as the Average Number Belonging or ANB; and

**WHEREAS**, currently the Elementary District receives \$5,348 per ANB for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and \$6,847 per ANB for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders; and

**WHEREAS**, like many districts throughout the United States, several Montana school districts are moving to a grade 6-8 middle school model. This model is beneficial as it allows students to explore a wider array of courses, particularly elective courses, at an earlier age. Students are allowed to explore opportunities and find passions that oftentimes carry over into high school. Moreover, students can frequently gain experiences and even credits that will benefit them in high school and beyond; and

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

Cost of funding 6th graders at high school funding levels	
Difference in ANB, Elementary vs. Max	\$1,497
Statewide expansion of Max Budget	\$16,633,512
Statewide expansion of BASE Budget	\$13,306,810
State Cost Per Year	\$10,479,113
District BASE levy increase, Nonvoted	\$2,827,697
District Over BASE levy increase, Voted	\$3,326,702

**BE IT**  
 logical  
 modify  
 ANB

**RESOLVED**, it is therefore  
 that the Montana Legislature  
 school funding so that the per  
 payment for 6<sup>th</sup> graders is the same

as that for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, as reflected in amending Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306 (15)(c); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, SAM hereby requests that the 2017 Montana Legislature modify school funding so that the per ANB payment for 6<sup>th</sup> graders is the same as that for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, as reflected in this draft amendment to Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306 (15)(c):

Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306 (15) "Total per ANB entitlement" means the district entitlement resulting from the following calculations and using either the current year ANB or the 3 year ANB provided for in 20-9-311:

\_\_\_\_\_ (c) for an elementary school district or a K-12 district elementary program with an approved and accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle school, the sum of:

\_\_\_\_\_ (i) a maximum rate of \$5,348 for fiscal year 2016 and \$5,444 for each succeeding fiscal year for the first ANB for kindergarten through grade 5, decreased at the rate of 20 cents per ANB for each additional ANB up through 1,000 ANB, with each ANB in excess of 1,000 receiving the same amount of entitlement as the 1,000th ANB; and

\_\_\_\_\_ (ii) a maximum rate of \$6,847 for fiscal year 2016 and \$6,970 for each succeeding fiscal year for the first ANB for grades 6, 7 and 8, decreased at the rate of 50 cents per ANB for each additional ANB for grades 6, 7 and 8 up through 800 ANB, with each ANB in excess of 800 receiving the same amount of entitlement as the 800th ANB.



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**Designation: Support**

**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**

**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

**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



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**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;

**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**



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

**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

**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

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

**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]**

**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



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**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.

**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**