



**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**  
*Delegate Assembly 2018 Proposed Resolutions*  
 As Considered by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-7-18  
 for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2018

Proposed Resolutions are in font colors by Affiliate: **MASS**, **MASSP**, **MAEMSP**, **META**, **MACSS**, **MCASE**  
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## New Proposed Resolutions

### **Resolution #18-01 – ALLOWING THE USE OF PERMISSIVE MAJOR MAINTENANCE SUBFUND OF THE BUILDING RESERVE TO SECURE AND REPAY LOANS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Designation: Action**

**Submitted by Tobin Novasio (Superintendent of Lockwood Schools) on 4-23-18 for MASS**

**Support Information**

The 2017 legislature addressed the well documented under funding of Montana school facilities by passing SB307.

**Commented [KM1]:** DASC moved to approve this new resolution with the 2 revisions in red underline font; passed unanimously.

**Commented [KM2]:** DASC adds language to tie this to Montana Constitution. Moved and passed unanimously.

**Commented [KM3]:** DASC addition to clarify the millage allowed in law. Moved and passed unanimously.



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This change to the law allows districts to permissively levy funds for their Building Reserve. These funds will allow districts to address major maintenance projects, which have built up over the years. This funding is limited to the lesser of: 10 mills or \$15,000 per district plus \$100 per ANB. While this additional earmarked funding is certainly appreciated, many districts have longstanding needs; the money in this fund will need to accumulate for several years before they can address said needs.

The purpose of this resolution is to remove language in law preventing districts from using this permissive fund to secure a loan to address their needs. By allowing districts this flexibility to leverage their permissive authority to borrow funds, it allows school boards to address facility needs sooner and saves the state money by having work done at current rates.

**Resolution #18-02 – SCHOOL SAFETY**

**WHEREAS**, school shootings and school violence are occurring at increasing rates in our school communities across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, Montana law **(MCA 45-8-361)** currently provides for local control allowing a Board of Trustees to decide who may possess a firearm or other weapon in a local school district; and

**WHEREAS**, school teachers, staff, administrators or others in possession of a firearm on school property requires significant and ongoing training for proper use and safety of firearms; and

**WHEREAS**, some Montana school districts and communities are located at significant time and distance from local law enforcement support and armed law enforcement officers; and

**WHEREAS**, the focus of our schools, teachers, staff, and administrators should be on quality teaching and learning;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that SAM opposes possession of weapons on school property by school teachers, staff, administrators, or any other persons except as authorized by a local Board of Trustees; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SAM supports increased funding **(only if adequate additional funding is provided beyond the services already allocated to support schools)** for school resource officers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SAM urges the State of Montana to require certification and annual qualification equivalent to those set by the Montana Peace Officers Standards and Training of any school teacher, staff, administrator or person authorized by a local Board of Trustees to possess a firearm on school property; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that SAM supports funding **(only if adequate additional funding is provided beyond the services already allocated to support schools)** for training and ongoing practice

**Commented [KM4]:** DASC moved to “Not Support” resolution #18-02 based on research of SAM member beliefs about this issue; passes unanimously. Resolution #18-02 will go forward to the Delegate Assembly Caucus’ for review. The DASC recommendation to the Delegate Assembly is to “Not Support” this resolution.

**Commented [KM5]:** DASC adds MCA citation for clarity. Moved and passed unanimously.

**Commented [KM6]:** DASC revised language to insure that this allocation does not reduce allocations for necessary school functions already being funded. Moved and passed unanimously.

**Commented [KM7]:** DASC revised language to insure that this allocation does not reduce allocations for necessary school functions already being funded. Moved and passed unanimously.



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necessary for certification and annual qualification equivalent to those set by the Montana Peace Officers Standards and Training of any school teacher, staff, administrator or person authorized by a local Board of Trustees to possess a firearm on school property.

**Designation:** ~~Action~~ **Support**

Submitted by Heather Davis Schmidt (Superintendent of Whitefish Public Schools) on 4-17-18 for NWMASS

**Supporting Information**

**Resolution #18-03 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**

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

**WHEREAS**, it gets dark early during the fall season;

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

**Designation:** **Support**

Submitted by Heather Davis Schmidt (Superintendent of Whitefish Public Schools) on 4-17-18 for NWMASS

**Supporting Information**

Other Considerations Not Submitted

**Resolution #18-04 – WEF**

No language submitted by 4-27-17

**Designation:**

**Possibly Submitted by Tamra Covington (Special Ed Coordinator, Billings Schools) on x-29-16 for MCASE**

**Commented [KM8]:** DASC felt that Action would require SAM to take the lead on this divisive, sensitive issue – supporting the resolution would be a better designation. Moved and passed unanimously.

**Commented [KM9]:** DASC – called for a motion, received no motion to support this resolution, so it died due to lack of a motion. As a result, Resolution #18-03 will be designated as no recommendation from the DASC.

**Commented [KM10]:** DASC postponed this item as a new resolution and recommended that additional language be added to Resolution #99/03/08/10-01 – Required Attendance. Revised language will be submitted by Tamra Covington



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## Proposed Changes to Current Resolutions

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

**Commented [KM11]:** DASC moved to recommend deleting Resolution #16-01; passed unanimously.

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

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

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

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

~~BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislative action to add the option to allow a grace period in registering the original certificate with consistent access to County Superintendent of Schools for online verification of certificate registration through scanning and submitting through email or digital affidavit from the TEAMS/FTE Report up to the December 1 teacher assignment deadline.~~

**Designation: Support**

Submitted by Erin Lipkind (Missoula County Superintendent) on 4-24-18 for MACSS

#### Supporting Information

While there is no fiscal impact to SAM resolution #16-01, I argue that it is an unnecessary focus for the School Administrators of Montana’s lobbying efforts. It should not be an action item or a support item. Rather, it should not be a resolution at all.

True, MCA 20-4-202 is outdated now that MSIS exists. When this statute was written, there was no electronic method of determining if a teacher was properly licensed. Thus, a better effort might be to abolish the requirement to register the certificates at all and require the school clerks to identify whose license is expiring or that new staff are properly licensed. All this information is available online. However, the County Superintendent provides a service to county schools by generating lists of teachers whose licenses will expire at the end of the school year. This provides for a system of checks and balances that keeps teachers from slipping through the cracks, resulting in licensure issues being picked up when completing the TEAMS report where it will result in an accreditation problem and decrease in the quality educator payment.

The fact that some County Superintendents hold part time positions is no barrier to getting the original license processed in a timely manner. OPI turns around license renewals within a week, and teachers no longer have to send in their renewal units or transcripts in order for the license to be processed. 5 years is more than enough time to get the



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necessary renewal units or university credits to renew a license—no extension is necessary. For teachers new to the field graduating from Montana universities, their university personnel assist in the initial licensure processing and most are duly licensed by the end of summer. For those seeking provisional licenses or additional endorsements, the time necessary to receive official transcripts and submit to OPI is no more than two weeks. Thus, 60 days is more than enough time to accomplish this. Finally, professional licenses (OT, PT, SLP) must be renewed yearly and can be done via email. These individuals don't get an original license, just a print out. They can email the county superintendent a print out, and she can print it and send it back in the mail.

There is nothing in statute that requires an individual to come in person to register a license. They can be left in a locked drop box or sent to the county superintendent in the mail. She can then send it back to the individual, and the process can be completed within a few business days regardless of how part time the officeholder. If a license is lost in the mail, the OPI can replace it within days.

As County Superintendent in a large county, my experience has been that those who miss the November 1 deadline have failed to accrue the required 60 renewal units or university credits. They either lost their paperwork or simply didn't take the required courses. Since university credits are no longer required for renewal, the process to get a renewal license has gotten so easy that there is no excuse for missing the November 1 deadline. Unprofessional behavior should not be rewarded with a grace period.

**Montana Code Annotated 2015**

**20-4-202. Teacher and specialist certification registration.** (1) Any person employed as a teacher, specialist, principal, or district superintendent shall register the person's certificate or the district shall register its emergency authorization of employment for a teacher with the county superintendent of the county in which the person is employed in order to validate the person's employment status and permit payment under the employment contract. If a teacher or specialist does not register the person's certificate with the county superintendent within 60 calendar days after the person begins to perform services, the person is not eligible to receive any further compensation under the contract of employment until the person has registered the certificate. After the schools of a district have been open for 60 calendar days in the current school fiscal year, the county superintendent shall notify each district of the county of each teacher or specialist who has registered a current valid certificate, and the district may not pay any teacher who has not registered the person's certificate until the county superintendent does notify the district of the registration.

(2) A teacher or specialist employed by a joint district shall register the person's certificate with the county superintendent of the county in which the person is working. A teacher or specialist employed by a special education cooperative shall register the person's certificate with the county superintendent of the county in which the special education cooperative is based.

History: En. 75-6106 by Sec. 87, Ch. 5, L. 1971; amd. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 75-6106; amd. Sec. 15, Ch. 511, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 1987; amd. Sec. 291, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

**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

**Commented [KM12]:** DASC moved to approve the revisions to language in the resolution; passed unanimously.

**Commented [LE13]:** This is exactly what we are doing now. The change that occurred was using percentage proficient rather than an average cut score to determine accreditation status.



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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.

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

**Commented [LE14]:** New language

**Designation: Support**

**Submitted by Erin Lipkind (Missoula County Superintendent) on 4-24-18 for MACSS**

**Supporting Information**

See mark-up comments.

See comments in mark-up on Resolution #01/03/05/12/14/15/16/17-07 that support the revisions to Resolution #13/14-02

**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;



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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

**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.

**Designation:** **Support Action**

Submitted by Heather Davis Schmidt (Superintendent of Whitefish Public Schools) on 4-17-18 for NWMASS

**Supporting Information**

Focused on Health Insurance to take every action to help school districts with escalating health care costs.

**Commented [LE15]:** Note that average cut scores are not being used for determination of accreditation status.

**Commented [LE16]:** Many factors, such as lack of Internet Connectivity impact the reliability and validity of test scores, and if "sanctions" includes writing a corrective plan, then sanctions are in place.

**Commented [KM17]:** DASC called for a motion, and due to lack of motion to recommend the change from designation of Support to Action, the recommendation is to leave the designation as Support.

**Commented [KM18]:** Emphasized in the submission of this proposed resolution change.



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

**Commented [KM19]:** DASC took no action, therefore this resolution is deleted.

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

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

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

**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:





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- ~~\_\_\_\_\_ (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.~~

**Designation: Support**

**Submitted by Terry Bouck (Superintendent of Billings Schools) on 3-23-16 for MASS but no rewrite submitted by the 4-27-18 deadline.**

**Supporting Information**

This Resolution was deleted by the 2017 Delegate Assembly with a request to be rewritten and updated with current fiscal impact and rationale. No rewrite was received by the 4-17-18 deadline.

- 1. Name of member school system submitting the resolution.**  
Billings Public Schools
- 2. Date upon which the Board of Trustees affirmatively voted to submit the resolution for consideration?**  
January 25, 2016
- 3. Please paste (or attach a copy of) the relevant portion of the minutes of the Board meeting at which the resolution was approved for submission.**  
A motion was made to authorize the Superintendent and Board Clerk, along with staff as needed, to work with legal counsel in completing resolutions regarding CTE funding, compulsory attendance age and ANB of 6<sup>th</sup> graders, to be submitted to MTSBA and SAM no later than February 15, 2016. Motion passed unanimously.  
\*\*Note, the minutes of the meeting have not yet been approved.
- 4. What is the conceptual change sought? Please provide an overview of the Intended purpose of the resolution.**  
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. This resolution seeks to equalize the ANB for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with those of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- 5. What sections of law do you anticipate need to be changed? (Please list the sections of law, but not the specific changes sought to such laws, so as to ensure sufficient flexibility regarding how to Implement the change.)**  
We anticipate changes to a number of sections of law, included, but not limited to Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306 (15)(c).

**Commented [KM20]:** DASC recommends support for the concept of this resolution and request revision to the language of the resolution from the original submitter of the resolution to generally address the consideration of 6<sup>th</sup> grade funded at HS rates. No revision to the language was received.



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**6. How is the resolution anticipated to advance the Interests of all of Montana’s public schools, and/or public school students and/or increase student success?**

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. It is therefore logical that the 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.

**7. What are the anticipated sources of external opposition?**

We anticipate opposition from legislators and groups opposed to increased funding for public schools and/or opposed to public schools generally.

**8. What are the anticipated sources of internal opposition or division within the education community and what steps have been taken, if any, to mitigate/minimize or resolve such division?**

We do not anticipate any sources of internal opposition or division at this time.

**9. What is the projected statewide Impact on Montana’s public schools of the proposed resolution?**

Student performance would increase, attendance and graduation rates would increase, students would enter high school with greater opportunities including high school credit.

**10. Please provide any additional background, explanation or other context for the resolution that you would like to be considered during the deliberations of the Delegate Assembly.**

No further additional information.

**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

**Commented [KM21]:** DASC determined that since no language revisions were submitted, that the language stands as is.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Designation: Support**

**Submitted by Terry Bouck (Superintendent of Billings Schools) on 3-23-16 for MASS, approved by 2017 Delegate Assembly and discussed with Rick Duncan 2018 but no rewrite submitted by the 4-27-18 deadline.**



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**RESOLUTIONS**

(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; **and**

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

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

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SAM supports initiatives aimed at keeping students engaged and enrolled through 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

**Commented [KM22]:** DASC member Tamra Covington proposes addition of this language to support the work of the World Education Foundation – USA request of a SAM member.

**Commented [KM23]:** DASC member Tamra Covington proposes addition of this language to support the work of the World Education Foundation – USA request of a SAM member.



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**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 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



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**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**

**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;



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**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

**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**



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**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.

**Commented [KM24]:** DASC called for a motion, and due to lack of motion to recommend the change from designation of Support to Action, the recommendation is to leave the designation as Support.

**Commented [KM25]:** Emphasized in the submission of this proposed resolution change.





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**Designation:** **Support Action**

Submitted by Heather Davis Schmidt (Superintendent of Whitefish Public Schools) on 4-17-18 for NWMASS

**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;



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**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**

**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



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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.

**Designation: Action**

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

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

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

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

**Designation: Action**

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

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



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**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;

**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



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**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.

**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



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**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



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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.

**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;





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**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.

**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



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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**

**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.



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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.

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

**Designation: Support**

**Submitted by Erin Lipkind (Missoula County Superintendent) on 4-24-18 for MACSS**

**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

**Commented [KM26]:** DASC moved to approve the revisions to language in the resolution; passed unanimously.

**Commented [LE27]:** This is exactly what we are doing now. The change that occurred was using percentage proficient rather than an average cut score to determine accreditation status.

**Commented [LE28]:** New language



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

**Designation: Support**

**Resolution #13/14/17-04 – 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



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

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

**Designation: Support**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, mandatory state assessments are in place; and

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

**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;



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**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

**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;



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**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 consistent access to County Superintendent of Schools for online verification of certificate registration through scanning and submitting through email or digital affidavit from the TEAMS/FTE Report up to the December 1 teacher assignment deadline.

**Designation: Support**

**Submitted by Erin Lipkind (Missoula County Superintendent) on 4-24-18 for MACSS**

**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

**Commented [KM29]:** DASC moved to recommend deleting Resolution #16-01; passed unanimously.



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**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**

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

**Commented [KM30]:** DASC took no action, therefore this resolution is deleted.





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**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:~~

<b>Cost of funding 6th graders at high school funding levels</b>	
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

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)(e); and

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

**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)(e):

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:

- \_\_\_\_\_ (e) 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



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~~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.~~

**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

**Commented [KM31]:** DASC determined that since no language revisions were submitted, that the language stands as is.



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**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

**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**

**Submitted by Terry Bouck (Superintendent of Billings Schools) on 3-23-16 for MASS, approved by 2017 Delegate Assembly and discussed with Rick Duncan 2018 but no rewrite submitted by the 4-27-18 deadline.**

**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 I, 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.

**Designation: Action**

**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



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**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

**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



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**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**