

# SAM Environmental Scan of Current Conditions, Trends, Assumptions about the Future, and Mega Issues 4-6-18

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## 1. Key Factor: Demographics

### Demographics Current Conditions

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### Demographics Trends

- Intensive special needs increasing

### Demographics Assumptions About the Future

- The disparity between wealth vs. poverty will continue to grow.

### Demographics Barriers

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### Demographics Mega Issue Questions

- 1.

## 2. Key Factor: Business/Economic Climate

### Business/Economic Climate Current Conditions

- Decreased tax base from state (Barron)
- Economic growth in a few areas, declining in majority of rural areas (TN)
- Over reliance on property tax (TN)
- Tax fatigue (TN)
- Loss of retail business (and taxes) due to cyber business i.e Amazon, Uber, Airbnb (TN)
- Negative impact of regulations on the coal industry (TN)

### Business/Economic Climate Trends

- Trend of passing on cost to local taxpayers instead of the state paying and federal government paying their fair share (Barron)
- Shift in Montana's economy away from agriculture, energy, fossil fuels, timber, and minerals (TN)

### Business/Economic Climate Assumptions About the Future

- There will be a push to fund private schools with public funds (Barron)
- Cyber businesses will continue to grow and expand into new areas (TN)
- Resistance to new or increased taxes (TN)

### Business/Economic Climate Barriers

- Some negative perceptions of schools (Barron)
- Over reliance on property tax, local levies (TN)
- Balance taxes to encourage growth while adequately funding social services (TN)

### Business/Economic Climate Mega Issue Questions

1. Public dollars staying in public schools (Barron)
2. Stop passing the burden to local taxpayers (Barron)
3. Can we find a way to recover tax dollars that are currently lost to cyber business? (TN)
4. Do we have a plan to adequately tax emerging industries? Eye to the future (TN)

### 3. Key Factor: Legislation/Regulation

#### Legislation/Regulation Current Conditions

- State Revenue is not keeping up with growing costs in Education and Health & Human Services (LM)
- Legislators are generally unwilling to increase or create new taxes. (LM)
- State Superintendent of School is not willing to take a stand on advocacy for public schools. (LM)
- MT PEC is a strong advocate for Montana public education. (LM)
- State Board of Education has been implementing new rules to increase teacher recruitment and retention. (LM)
- ESSA requirements for student growth and school improvement programs. (LM)
- Lack of support for special education funding. (LM)

#### Legislation/Regulation Trends

- Increasing public interest in the use of state funding for privatization of schools -vouchers, etc. (LM)
- Budget shortfalls at the State level are being passed down to LEAs. (LM)
- Citizens in rural areas are losing community based access to programs such as Public Health & Human Services, Job Services Centers, Mental Health, etc. due to state budget cuts. (LM)
- Lack of mental health resources is negatively affecting students, families, and schools. (LM)
- Making teacher certification requirements easier for professionals and educators from out of state. (LM)
- Schools are required to provide services to special needs students but are not given adequate funding to meet the students' needs. (LM)

#### Legislation/Regulation Assumptions About the Future

- Without increased or new taxes the lack of funding will continue to negatively impact LEAs. (LM)
- Lack of legislative support and funding for mental health will cause a growing negative affect on our students and their families. (LM)
- Schools will have an increase in need for school psychologists and counselors. (LM)
- Further privatization of schools will continue to reduce resources for public education. (LM)
- Addiction and poverty will continue to impact families and students' learning unless agencies can return to communities. (LM)

#### Legislation/Regulation Barriers

- Lack of legislator's support for sufficient and sustaining funding resources for public education and social programs. (LM)
- Negative attitudes about public education by legislators. (LM)
- Lack of advocacy from State Superintendent of Schools. (LM)
- Lack of community based social programs in rural areas.. (LM)

#### Legislation/Regulation Mega Issue Questions

1. How can the legislature adequately fund public education? (LM)
2. What can school leaders do to improve the OPI and state legislator's negative perceptions of public education? (LM)
3. What are some new forms of revenue that the legislature may be willing to endorse, if not sales tax? (LM)
4. What are some creative ways to decrease the cost of public education without affecting the quality? (LM)

### 4. Key Factor: Technology/Science

#### Technology/Science Current Conditions

- The need for all to have equal access to the internet-Cal
- Making sure we are teaching the right skills to prepare students for the future workforce-Cal
- Making sure we have updated security with our technology-Cal
- Training staff so they are better able to assist students with technology in the classroom-Cal
- How we use technology in the classroom today and what we could do with it in the future-Cal

## Technology/Science Trends

- Personalised learning-Cal
- Online classes-Cal
- Digital academy-Cal
- Digital credit limits for graduation

## Technology/Science Assumptions About the Future

- Every job will use some type of technology-Cal
- Students come to class with more technology knowledge than some teachers-Cal

## Technology/Science Barriers

- Cost of technology-Cal
- Training staff-Cal
- Mindset of staff to use technology in the classroom-Cal
- Making sure we are as up to date with technology and give students opportunity for growth

## Technology/Science Mega Issue Questions

1. How do we stay relevant and up to date in technology and be able to teach students skills they will use in the future?-Cal
2. What classes do we need to offer students to help them succeed in the future(coding, robotics, etc...)-Cal
3. How have the colleges kept up with this in courses being required of prospective teachers?-Cal
4. Ongoing PD for teachers with latest and greatest.

## 5. Key Factor: Politics/Social Values

### Politics/Social Values Current Conditions

- Increased mental health need and diagnoses at younger ages
- Increased overall health needs of students, physical as well as emotional
- Increased severity of student needs
- Increased expectations for educational services for ages 3-21
- Perception that schools are unsafe
- Overwhelmed communities given students with challenging needs
- Voting demographics - different perspectives considered; different approaches for effective communication with identified groups
- Increased “labeling” of voting groups
- Middle class?
- Society’s mobility issues impacting educational continuity
- Privacy issues given technology’s unexpected growth and changes
- Shifts in funding responsibility from federal/state governments to local communities-budget imbalance that has led to cuts
- Perceptions both that the school is solely responsible for SEL and also that the school should not address SEL
- Healthcare and insurance --- coverage? reform? Children? Impact of Medicaid changes?
- Preservation and enhancement of the necessary skills and knowledge needed to to develop future, active citizens
- Increased need for teachers and schools to adopt roles previously associated with parents
- Lack of support for Public Schools from two of our Delegates in Washington.
- OPI identifying failing schools and the amount of work schools who are deemed failing will have to go through

## Politics/Social Values Trends

- Increasing requests/recommendations for 504s/IEPs from outside agencies
- Fewer funded outside resources
- Questionable sustainability of federally supported programs --- all human service programs
- On-going decreases in state and federal funding for early childhood education
- Need & desire (in some communities) and lack of funding for preschool
- Growing addiction to social media and electronic devices in general
- Relative isolation/disconnection (or feeling of) by many in our communities
- Interest in alternative education i.e. charter, online and private schools
- Both excitement and trepidation regarding expanding role of technology in educational service delivery
- Technology's impact on student engagement and the evolution of teaching methodologies as well as its impact on data collection and use
- Interest in readdressing school safety including arming educators w/ firearms
- Interest in alternative paths for educator licensure (potential lowering of the standard)
- Recruitment of non-licensed individuals; questionable expectations regarding teacher preparation; misassigned teachers; generally, teacher shortages and retention issues
- Reported difficulties in securing licensure in MT following licensure elsewhere
- Increasing educational costs for currently employed staff
- Decreased expectations for advanced coursework for employed professionals; no longer emphasizing organized programs of study as reflected in negotiated salary schedules
- Greater teaching staff unrest across country due to wages, benefits, retirements
- Greater emphasis on vocational careers for students
- Gifted ed and twice exceptional expectations growing without corresponding funding
- Fear of loss of rights for protected classes
- Excitement and fear of globalization
- Excitement and fear of immigration
- Excitement and fear of technology
- Excitement and fear of the future
- Academic freedom? Conservatism?
- Public schools instead of Private Schools or Charter
- Increased desire to personalize educational delivery and expectations for all students (jargon changes: personalized learning, RTI, MTSS,....)
- Expectation to "produce" students who serve the economy/society
- Nationalism v. Globalism
- Ethnocentrism v. Multiculturalism

## Politics/Social Values Assumptions About the Future

- Increase in students identified with anxiety and/or depression disorders w/significant impact on access to instruction
- Increase in students identified with neurological issues
- Impact of Methamphetamine on child development and school expectations
- Need for increased social services/supports
- Continued budget cuts to education and mental health service organizations
- Growing impact of social media and regulation that continues to lag behind
- How to deal with Private Schools and the support they are receiving from elected officials

## Politics/Social Values Barriers

- Need for professional development and resources regarding SEL, but it is not being addressed
- Funding
- Lack of SEL professional development
- Lack of access to SEL and mental health services

- Limitations of Medicaid funded CSCT
- Impact of private insurance benefits on determination of educational services a family chooses for youth
- Lack of understanding in many communities about the need for SEL and mental health services
- Competition within human service areas for limited funding dollars
- Polarized politics

## Politics/Social Values Mega Issue Questions

1. How does education/schools effectively address the need for access to social/emotional learning (SEL)?
2. How can education/schools promote the idea that SEL is the pathway to increased academic achievement?
3. How do we prepare students for a world yet unimagined?
4. How do we preserve and or foster humanity while progressing at an accelerated pace through science and technology?
5. Where do the science and art of education merge?
6. How do we best serve our students for their future?
7. How do we challenge our elected officials' accountability in a productive and meaningful way?
8. How do we hone in on our priorities within education and then effectively communicate those priorities at meaningful points in effective and positive ways?
9. How are the elected officials of our state voting?
10. How can we get the facts about the Voting of our Congressional Delegates to the Membership continuously?