

SAM Statements of Support for Federal Issues

1. 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.
2. SAM supports implementation (and rule making) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that:
 - Shifts control of schools back to the state and local school districts.
 - Provides adequate funding to support high quality college and career standards implementation.
 - Uses assessment to appropriately measure student performance with the intention of improving teaching and learning for students.
 - Changes the philosophy of ESSA to support and resources for public schools.
3. SAM will work with the Montana Congressional Delegation in support of full federal funding of special education (IDEA).
4. SAM will communicate with the Montana Congressional Delegation regarding our continued opposition to school vouchers, charter schools, public scholarships for private education, tax savings accounts, tuition tax credits, and/or use of public funds for privatization/profitization in any form.
5. SAM supports formula funding and opposes competitive grant programs at the federal level.
6. SAM supports adequate federal (human, time and fiscal) resources for professional learning for administrators and teachers to implement quality college and career standards.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. SAM supports a stronger voice for rural education at the federal level that includes:
 - Establishment of an Office of Rural Education Policy within the U.S. Department of Education to recognize the unique challenges facing rural schools.
 - 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.
 - SAM supports Net Neutrality.
 - Minimization of the reporting requirements of the Office of Civil Rights bi-annual data collection (CRDC) report and REAP Small Rural School Achievement Program application, while providing timely, useful information to Montana schools.
 - Recruitment and retention of quality educators for Montana schools.