



*Visionary leaders united in providing,  
advocating, and creating education  
excellence for Montana students!*

## SAM Update 8-23-24

---

***Hello SAM Members,***

Welcome back to the 2024-2025 School Year! Hope your year is starting smoothly.

**SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR: Thursday, Sept 12, 10am.**

- What should we expect in the 2025 Legislature?
- What about changes to the funding formula?
- How about an update on that new school health insurance program that was created in the last legislative session?

These are just some of the important questions that will be answered in our FIRST SAM WEBINAR.  
More info and zoom link below.

---

### Upcoming SAM Professional Learning Opportunities

#### ***SAM Monthly Webinar Series***

SAM will continue with our monthly webinars this school year - open to all SAM members. The webinars are free. The information is intended to be relevant, just-in-time, and hot topics in education. Mark your calendars for the second Thursday of each month from 10:00 - 11:00 AM. Connect to the webinars on the SAM Zoom meeting room: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3923446729>

Schedule for the Fall:

- **September 12: Legislative Primer - school funding, school health insurance, and other hot topics.**
- October 10: Artificial Intelligence - practical tips from the administrator's desk
- November 14: Reinvesting and recommitting to IEFA implementation in our schools

- December 12: CTE and Work Based Learning opportunities (TENTATIVE)

## ***MASS/MCASE/MACSS Fall Conference Registration***

The MASS/MCASE/MACSS Fall Conference is scheduled for September 23-24, 2024, at the GranTree in Bozeman! This event promises to be an outstanding learning opportunity, featuring educator and author [Thomas Murray](#). [Beth Lewis](#) from Arizona Save Our Schools will share insights on the challenges Arizona has faced with universal *school vouchers* and Oregon Superintendent [Heidi Sipe](#) will present her innovative work on boosting *student attendance*. Register now to connect and learn with your fellow educators.

Follow this link to register and for room block information: [2024 Fall Conference Registration Form](#)

## ***2024-25 SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program Registration is Open***

SAM is continuing the long standing tradition of providing a low cost 1-1 coaching/mentoring model with the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP). If you are new to your position OR if you would benefit from a mentor, this is the right program for you. LPLP provides each person with an experienced mentor that will provide support through 1-1 conversations and check-ins throughout the school year. Remember that leadership can be a lonely job. The LPLP mentor can be a great resource for quick guidance or a confidential ear to provide a sounding board in difficult situations. Register now for this opportunity to work with a mentor for only \$750 for the entire 2024-25 program year. Follow this link to register: [2024-25 SAM LPLP 1-1 Leadership Coaching & Mentoring Registration Form](#)

## ***MCEL Registration is Open***

MCEL 2024 is scheduled for October 16 - 18 at the Missoula Hilton Garden Inn. Follow the link to review the conference schedule and to register: <https://mcel.org/home>. All SAM members are invited to attend the annual SAM Membership Meeting on Friday, October 18 at 8:00 AM.

---

## **SAM Website Member Login Credentials Coming Soon**

We are pleased to inform you that we are in the final stages of updating member profiles in our new association management software. You may continue to access all resources at <https://www.sammt.org/> without needing to log in. Watch for your new login credentials that will be sent out in the next few weeks. We appreciate your patience and continued support during this process. Stay tuned for further updates on the new tools and features that will soon be available to you.

---

## ***Information from Education Partners***

### **Kaleva Law Conference Sponsored by Park County Special Education Coop**

The Park County Special Education Cooperative invites Montana administrators, Special Education teachers and Related Service Providers to join us at Chico Hot Springs on Friday, November 8th for our Annual Law Conference with Elizabeth Kaleva from Kaleva Law Office. Payment is required to secure your spot as there are only 130 seats available for this event. This event is \$150/attende. Follow this link to register: <https://thebluebirdway.com/event-registration>

## **New Teacher Enrollment is Open for MentorMT 2024**

MentorMT provides:

- One-to-one mentoring that addresses teachers' needs and respects their time
- Experienced mentors assigned by aligned grade level and subject area
- A focus on content, curriculum, and instructional support that is non-evaluative
- No cost to schools and a \$500 incentive stipend for participating teachers
- Requisite high-quality mentoring as outlined in [ARM 10.55.723](#)

Teachers may self-enroll; administrators may enroll current or anticipated staff. Priority enrollment for rural schools/districts. Open enrollment now through September 15th. For information about benefits and the application link, go to: [MentorMT 2024 – Mentee Enrollment Information](#)

Questions? Contact Jennifer Luebeck, MentorMT Director: Email [jennifer.luebeck@montana.edu](mailto:jennifer.luebeck@montana.edu) or call (406) 994-5341

## 2024 Montana School Psychologist of the Year Award Nominations are Open

The 2024 Montana School Psychologist of the Year Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of school psychologists who have demonstrated excellence in their profession and a deep commitment to supporting the educational and emotional well-being of students. MASP is seeking nominations of individuals who have made significant impacts in their schools and communities through innovative practices, advocacy, and collaboration. This is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the exceptional work of your colleagues and to celebrate the vital role school psychologists play in fostering positive educational environments.

Complete the [Nomination Form](#) (including letters of support) by **September 15, 2024**. The selected School Psychologist of the Year will be honored at our annual conference September 27-28, 2024. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us through the MASP website [contact page](#).

---

Thanks for being a SAM member.

Please reach out to me directly if you have questions, comments, or if you need any assistance.

Rob Watson, Executive Director, SAM

email: [samrw@sammt.org](mailto:samrw@sammt.org)

cell phone: 406-570-4135

<https://twitter.com/robwatson406>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/robwatson406/>

*Rob*

---



[Dr. Rob Watson](#)  
Executive Director

[Kim Scofield](#)

Director of Professional Learning and Member Services

[Marcus Meyer](#)

Director of Operations, Finance, and Membership

[Click here to unsubscribe.](#)

Message sent by Rob Watson, [samrw@sammt.org](mailto:samrw@sammt.org)

School Administrators of Montana | 900 N. Montana Ave. Suite A-4 | Helena, MT 59601

