

SAM May 2019 Bulletin

School Administrators of Montana <saom@memberclicks-mail.net>
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Wed, May 1, 2019 at 3:54 PM

School Administrators of Montana

BULLETIN

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

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Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, & Events

June 12, 2019: DaRud Cup 2019 - Helena

June 13, 2019: SAM Board Meeting - Helena

June 13, 2019: SAM Delegate Assembly Caucus - Helena

June 13, 2019: Evening of Excellence - Helena

June 14, 2019: SAM Delegate Assembly -

Spring Update from MACSS

by Linda Marsh, MACSS President

To my fellow SAM members,

By the time you read this, the 2019 legislature will have adjourned and we will begin assessing its impact on our schools. Being a part of the network of SAM is an amazing resource! I would like to thank Kirk and Rick Duncan who have done such an outstanding job speaking at hearings and voicing our priorities to legislators this session. Those of you who served on the 2019 Legislative Network, thanks for all the "Calls to Action" which informed us when we needed to reach out to legislative committee members and local members of the House and Senate. All the work has paid off. We have been successful in many areas.

In looking ahead, preparations will be underway soon for Delegate Assembly on June 13 and 14. We will be prioritizing some issues that fell short this session, such as funding for special education cooperatives and collecting ideas for new resolutions. Please share any ideas you have with your affiliate's representatives. I hope all members will consider attending the SAM Administrators' Institute from July 29 through 31 in Helena. If you are a relatively new administrator, you will also want to check out the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Platform, which provides personal mentorship throughout the school year.

The SAM website currently has several photos of honorees who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in their affiliates this past year. Congratulations to all of you! MACSS has chosen the 2018-2019 Rural Teacher of the Year. This year's recipient is Carolyn Wieringa, from West Glacier School in Flathead County. We are also honoring Kathy Pfister, Musselshell County School Superintendent, with a MACSS Distinguished Service Award. Kathy has been a MACSS member for 30 years and has served as both MACSS and SAM President. She is retiring at the end of June and certainly will be missed!

Lastly, I would like to express my gratitude to Kirk Miller. His strong leadership was especially evident this year as he guided SAM through restructuring the SAM management team. Joe Namath once said, "To be a leader, you have to make people want to follow you, and nobody wants to follow someone who doesn't know where he is going." Kirk definitely knows where SAM is going and has provided clear direction to help SAM move forward with a new positive and productive plan. I appreciate and congratulate Kim Scofield and Gary Wagner for stepping into their new roles.

It has been a learning experience and an honor for me to serve on the SAM Executive Board for the past two years! Thanks to all affiliate administrators for your work to improve education for all Montana students.

*Linda Marsh
MACSS President*

SAM Strategic Plan Goals Create a Cycle of Success for the Education of Montana Students!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

SAM 2019 Legislative Session Summary - 66th Montana Legislative Session

Helena

July 29-31: SAM
Administrators Institute 2019

** View the full SAM
Calendar**

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The 66th legislative session came to an end at 3:30 pm on Thursday, April 25 with a motion to adjourn sine die in the House of Representatives. The advocacy work of the SAM Legislative Network 2019 created many successes for the education of

Montana students during this legislative session. Though not all of the bills are completely through the legislature (many still awaiting action of the Governor to sign or veto), I have prepared a [SAM 2019 Legislative Session DRAFT Summary](#) for the review of our members. That DRAFT summary is printed in this Bulletin.

Our SAM goals – leadership involved in decisions that impact education, professional learning and services, and advocacy – clearly come to the forefront and are so very important when reflecting on the legislative session. In fact, the results of the legislative session have compelled our organization to adjust our professional learning goal to provide our members with the information they need to serve their schools and students in the best manner possible going forward. The focus of SAM and MT-PEC has turned to the development of professional learning (training PD) for our members to leverage flexibility and resources during times of scarcity. Helping our school administrators develop an understanding the flexibility and resources resulting from the 2019 legislative session actions and that of previous legislative sessions, is of highest priority this spring, summer and into the fall of 2019. An example would be full understanding of the ability to develop early childhood education authorized under current law, notably the exceptional circumstances clause of MCA 20-5-101(3), as a way to provide opportunities in your district for our youngest learners. You can expect to see this professional learning opportunity at the SAM Administrators Institute 2019 in July, and also at MCEL in October 2019. SAM will make this effort because we know that our members, administrators all across the state, will benefit from learning about all of the opportunities that flexibility and resources can bring to their schools, and the impact it will have on creating learning opportunities for the students served in those schools.

We are seeing the cycle – SAM members involved in decisions impacting the education of our students; the research of our SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program Collegial Learning Networks (like Transformational Learning CLN, Trusted Learning Environment CLN and Social Emotional Learning CLN impacted the bills during the 2019 legislative session); and advocacy – working symbiotically to create successful opportunities for our schools and our students. My thanks to all of the SAM members who have committed their energy and time to making a difference in advocacy and professional learning research that is causing this cyclical impact of our professional association supporting quality education for each Montana student!

The advocacy process for SAM begins anew in May as we prepare for Delegate Assembly 2019 (which will take place on June 13-14 in Helena). SAM affiliate presidents will be selecting Delegates, a call for SAM positions and resolutions to be submitted will soon go out to all SAM members, the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee will be meeting to put together all of the details for engaging in a robust and meaningful Delegate Assembly. My thanks to all SAM members who will be engaging in the process of SAM Delegate Assembly. Your efforts will make a difference for education in Montana just as the effort of the SAM Legislative Network 2019 made a big difference in SAM's advocacy during the 2019 legislative session!

May 1, 2019 DRAFT

(May be revised following final outcome of bills yet to be signed into law at this time)

School Administrators of Montana (SAM) actively pursued advocacy on behalf of our membership on the SAM Legislative Priorities during the 66th Legislative Session. SAM continued to work effectively with the alliance of education associations, MT-PEC (Montana Public Education Center), to help the legislature understand and support public education in our state. The session was very successful in terms of SAM's participation in developing legislation that created flexibility and funding to support public education, and helping to defeat legislation that would have caused harm to public schools. This report is an update on the actions of the legislature around the [SAM Advocacy Priorities](#) established by the SAM Delegate Assembly and the membership prior to the session.

The SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19) was formed prior to the legislative session in order to effectively communicate SAM legislative issues/bills and collect input to allow appropriate representation of SAM issues/bills during the legislative session. [Ninety-seven SAM members](#) representing every affiliate region across the state served on the SAMLN19, and through their effort accomplished the successes of this session! The [SAMLN19](#) webpage references 22 SAMLN19 Updates, Podcasts, and Weekly Schedules, as well as 5 "Calls to Action" and the webinar training and web meetings that helped organize the effort of the SAMLN19.

SAM followed and advocated for (or against) 138 bills to the end of the session. These bills and their status over the course of the session are on the [SAM Bills 2019](#) webpage, see [SAM Followed Bills 4-30-19](#) to review all 138 bills. The [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status Report 4-30-19](#) provides a review of all of the bills sorted by SAM advocacy priority and indicates the stance taken by SAM (Proponent, Opponent, Monitor).

The summary that follows begins with an overview of progress on [SAM Advocacy Priorities](#). Next is a brief 'success by the numbers' review of bills that were followed by SAM. Thanks to the many SAM members who made contacts to legislators and shared information – this **IS** what made the difference for K-12 education during the 66th Legislative Session.

SAM Legislative Priorities

SAM's advocacy priority areas – 1. Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (28 bills), 2. Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (5 bills), 3. Oppose Privatization with Public Funds (2 bills), 4. Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure (6 bills), 5. Support School Based Mental Health Services (5 bills), and Other SAM Followed Bills (49 bills). Each of these priority areas are summarized below...

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Executive Director
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Kim Scofield
Director of Member Services &
Professional Learning

Best to you as you continue to lead the great effort to finish the 2018-19 school with success for each student!

Kirk J. Miller



2019 DaRud Golf Tournament

Wednesday, June 12th

Bill Roberts Golf Course - Helena

All SAM Members are welcome!

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register!

Save the Date!
July 29-31, 2019

SAM AI 2019

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SAM Administrators Institute 2019

Monday, July 29

MTASCD Summit -

Kristin Souers - "A Culture of Safety & the New 3 R's"

New Superintendent/Clerk Finance Summit -
MASBO

Tuesday, July 30

Instructional Leadership Summit

Keynote - Sean Covel - "The Power of How"

Clinic Sessions

Wednesday, July 31

Instructional Leadership Summit

Keynote - Garret Garrels - Pink Gloves Boxing

Clinic Sessions

1. Support Adequate and Equitable Funding for Montana Schools (1 SF)

- Twenty-eight bills to address school funding were considered by this legislature. What follows are the major successes of SAM bills related to school funding.
- As the legislative session began, a major focus was to comply with the current law to provide inflationary increases to the K-12 school funding formula components. Special education allowable costs continued to be an issue that this legislature funded at the inflationary rate but in effect kicked the can down the road by not placing the special ed allowable costs into the K-12 funding formula or funding an adjustment to the special ed distribution formula that would have assisted special education coops needs. The two bills addressing these big issues of funding that passed this session were ...
 - **HB 159** (Grubbs), providing inflation on the funding formula and following through on what was set up in the 2017 Legislature with the state's expanded state support for public schools through the GTB formula and through funding of the Natural Resource Development (NRD) Payment to defray major maintenance levies that had been obtained through SB 307 in the 2017 Legislature. GTB by itself is projected to be \$23 million per year higher than what GTB plus block grants was in FY17. Combined with \$10 million per year in the NRD payment, that represents \$33 million in tax relief and over \$80 million in increased biennial spending authority for schools. This bill was passed as one of the first (2/27/19) significant bills of the 2019 Session, establishing a three biennial trend where public schools were funded first.
 - **HB 638** (Bedey), increasing K-12 special ed allowable cost payment was much slower (4/10/19) making it through the session after the failure of **HB 27** (Funk) on 2/14/19, generally revise special education funding which would have placed special ed allowable costs into the funding formula, applied inflation and adjusted the distribution formula to account for the special ed coop needs. As is **HB 338** places the current inflationary adjusted special ed allowable costs into the base funding to be considered by the 2021 legislature.
 - **HB 351** (McKamey), providing incentives for school districts to transition to personalized learning

Wednesday, July 31

LPLP Summit

Delta Hotel by Marriott, Helena Colonial

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register!

SAM Youth Endowment Gifts Awarded

The SAM Board of Directors recently awarded \$2000 to assist Montana students through funds allocated through the SAM Youth Endowment. Two students were each gifted \$1000 to assist with their specific financial need. Since 2010, the SAM Youth Endowment has disbursed nearly \$38,000 to Montana youth in need.

The purpose of the SAM Youth Endowment is to make a positive impact on the youth of Montana by providing financial assistance to benefit children's health, welfare, and/or education. Each of the six SAM affiliates contributes to the SAM Youth Endowment each year. Contributions are also received through donations and memorials.

The SAM Board of Directors first discussed the endowment possibilities in 1998. At that time the Board felt it was important for SAM to be involved financially with a cause that affected the youth of Montana. The discussion led to the establishment of an endowment that would contribute to different charities making a positive impact on the youth of Montana. In the Spring of 2001, the Board approved the SAM Youth Endowment Fund Guidelines for Assistance.

Nominations are submitted by SAM members at any time throughout the year and disbursed in the spring after SAM Board approval. To receive a SAM Youth Endowment gift, the youth must be a Montana K-12 student with a financial need such as a health concern, financial emergency, or educational need. The student must be nominated by a SAM member and the nomination must include a summary about the student and the specific financial need.

Thank you for the donations you have made to the SAM Youth Endowment this year!



SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2019-20

It isn't too early to start thinking about professional learning for you and your district administrators for next year.

SAM LPLP's multi-faceted blended learning approach consists of a rich online resource center, collegial learning networks designed to be dynamic based upon topics of interest as they arise that allow participants to focus on specific areas of interest, and personal learning networks including the option of one-on-one coaching/mentoring with experienced Providers.

Tailored to meet the needs of new, experienced, and aspiring administrators, learning networks meet both virtually and face-to-face allowing participants to share challenges, successes, and thought leadership with like-minded Montana leaders experiencing similar job roles, situations, and context while bringing professional development to the administrator.

(transformational) models, including the incorporation of proficiency-based ANB. The funding under this bill amounts to approximately \$3,200 per year per participating quality educator and includes both state funding and a 100% nonvoted local levy match

- **HB 387** (Jones), providing increased CTE funding for advanced opportunities. This bill expands school district access to use of Adult Education Funds (25% match) and will, when fully phased in between 2020-2024, nearly triple current funding for CTE programs, including expansion to middle grades. This bill also creates a present law base and inflationary adjustments to CTE for the first time authority in the Flexibility Fund.
- **HB 576** (Bedey), providing increased flexibility for school districts in managing their endowment funds. There is nearly \$30 million in school district endowment funds across Montana and up until now, expenditure of the principal from those funds has been prohibited by automatic operation of the law. Under HB 576, unless the donor directed the funds to an endowment, the school district will now have flexibility to move and spend the funds at the discretion of the board of trustees.
- **SB 92** (Salomon), creating a new expanded definition of school safety that includes both capital and operational expenditure authority and both preventative and reactive measures to address school safety. The broadened definition of school safety will expand the authority of trustees to transfer money from fund to fund, to run voted levies for school safety (no cap and no durational limit other than as specified on the ballot by the trustees) and access to existing nonvoted major maintenance levy proceeds for school safety.

2. Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (2 RR)

- Five bills addressing recruitment and retention of quality educators were under consideration this session. Only one of those bills passed.
- **HB 211** (Jones), providing loan repayment funding for impacted schools with critical quality educator shortages. This bill represents the collective advocacy of MT-PEC to place in law state funded loan repayment (for 3 years) for educators in critical shortage areas, expand the definition critical shortage areas (targeting rural schools and hard to fill positions), and provides local school districts the ability to use district approved funding to extend the loan repayment to a 4th year.

3. Opposition to Privatization with Public Funds (3 PP)

The goal of the SAM LPLP is to provide intentional, personalized professional learning to Montana educators through research-based strategies resulting in improvements in job satisfaction, administrator longevity, and ultimately to increased student achievement and quality of instruction which will positively impact the education of students across Montana.

[Register for SAM LPLP 2019-20!](#)

SAM Membership Drive 2019-20 Reminder!

The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) Membership Drive began with great success on April 3rd for the 2019-20 year! We are once again using the [online renewal process that was launched for the 2017-18 membership year](#). MCASE members and members not linked to a school district will receive an email that will include a link to their membership renewal form. As the "key contact" for a district, district clerks/business managers will receive an email that will include information for completing membership renewals for their district's MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, and META members. Please work with your district clerk/business manager to be sure your membership is correct. We encourage you to renew your membership early so you can start the next fiscal year with full benefits of your membership in place and without any chance of it lapsing. Contact the SAM Office with any questions you may have.



SAM Welcomes Mid-Rivers Communications as New Business Partner

Mid-Rivers Communications is a full-service technology provider with more than 65 years of experience serving Montanans. The more than 20 schools across our service area have been some of our most valued customers and technology partners for decades. Montana's educational institutions were top of mind when crafting our Vision Statement, *"Deliver telecommunications services that enhance education, health, commerce and the quality of life."* Our schools are often the first to benefit from new deployments of cutting-edge technology.

Mid-Rivers Communications understands that serving our communities means more than just operating networks. It means being an active member of our communities, taking pride in their accomplishments and taking part in their improvement. By becoming a SAM and META member, and directly supporting the critical mission of providing, advocating, and creating education excellence for Montana students, we can further prove our commitment to Montana's communities – both where we serve today, and for those that may benefit from our services in the future.

Mid-Rivers employs some of the state's most highly-certified Cisco engineers and staff to meet the ever-changing technology landscape, from Certified Engineers, Ethical Hackers, and a Cyber Security Specialist, to a full executive staff certified in Business Continuity. As a META and SAM member, this expertise would be available to your member schools through customized training opportunities. As we roll out new technologies and consider new service offerings, your member schools could be some of the

- Two privatization with public funding bills were considered during this session. [HB 755](#) (Moore), generally revise pre-kindergarten laws, and amendments in Conference Committee (on the last 2 days of the 2019 session) action to [SB 352](#) (Thomas), generally revise laws related to the state budget failed this session. Unfortunately, all of the funding for preschool was stripped from this strong effort by some legislators to provide public funds to private schools on the last day of the 2019 legislative session.
- You can follow the dialogue of what happened regarding privatization with public funds and preschool by reviewing [SAMLN19 Legislative Update 22 4-26-19](#) and/or [Podcast Week 16](#).

4. Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure (4 FT)

- Four bills to address facility and technology infrastructure were considered during the 66th legislative session.
- [HB 247](#) (Grubbs), provide greater flexibility for school districts in financing major maintenance, will providing school districts access to over \$250 million in major maintenance loans. This bill provides exponentially-increased value to the major maintenance levies by allowing the use of levy proceeds to pay debt service on major maintenance loans. This bill was an idea developed by the SAM Delegate Assembly and was an action resolution. SAM helped write the bill language, asked Rep Grubbs to carry the bill, and assisted in navigating this bill through the session to a successful end.
- [HB 652](#) (Hopkins), revise the long range building bonding program, dedicates \$10.75 million to school district infrastructure projects by application. The bill places a cap of \$750,000 per project and \$1.5 million per county and provides funding possibilities for any school district impacted by natural resource development.

5. Support School Based Mental Health Services (5 MH)

- Five bills were followed during the session that would have had an impact on school based mental health services.
- [SB 267](#) (Sands), revise laws related to private alternative adolescent programs board was the only bill in this area to pass. The content of the bill will revise laws related to private alternative adolescent programs board and will have little impact on the services in our public schools.
- SAM has much more work to do in the future in this advocacy priority area.

**[Reviewing the Success in the
Session on Bills followed by SAM](#)**

first to benefit or provide useful input. Above all, we look forward to the opportunity to work with SAM and META member schools to enhance the education of Montana's students through direct access to affordable IT, Internet, LAN/WAN services, voice, Ethernet transport, security, network management, and other technology services.

Visit the [Mid-Rivers Communications website](#) to learn more!

SmartIT

The [Consortium for School Networking \(CoSN\)](#) and its state affiliate chapter, [Montana Educational Technologists Association \(META\)](#) are pleased to continue to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations. Last month we addressed the [challenges and opportunities of rural school districts in taking the digital leap](#).

This month we focus on "*Strategic Technology Planning And Investment: Aligning Priorities, Balancing Choice, Cost & Outcomes*". Technology investments can be complicated and more often than not, the challenges begin almost from the moment a district begins to consider the next steps in its overarching technology plan. The CoSN SmartIT initiative gives district leaders tools and resources to evaluate, rethink and strengthen technology decision making, aligning investments with the district's strategic goals, financial and human resources, and improvements in student learning. For a quick overview, check out CoSN's one-page document on the three essential focal points for smart IT decisions at "[Strategic Technology Planning and Investment: Aligning Priorities, Balancing Choice, Cost & Outcomes](#)". To access a more in-depth study and additional resources, including a total cost of ownership assessment tool, visit the [CoSN SmartIT web page](#).

CoSN has partnered with edWeb to provide a monthly webinar series on topics essential for leading digital transformations. School superintendents serve as panelists on each webinar and share their stories and expertise. Every webinar is recorded for viewing by those who are not able to join the live broadcast. The title of the May 13, 2019 webinar (scheduled for 5:00 pm ET) is "Strategic Technology Planning and Investment". [Learn more and register for this free webinar HERE](#).

If your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more involved with CoSN, please contact Brian Calvary, CAE, CoSN Director of Membership and Chapters, at bcalvary@cosn.org.

The SAM advocacy team (Kirk Miller and Rick Duncan) provided testimony on behalf of SAM 94 times on 55 different bills. See the [SAM Testimony Log 2019 Legislative Session](#) to review the details. The following is an overview of the bills by the numbers...

- Testimony on behalf of SAM was provided 94 times – 84 as proponents, 8 as opponents and 2 as informational (questions were asked).
- Bills followed by SAM in which we were either proponent or opponent: 55
- Passage Rate on Bills SAM supported: 28/47 Bills Passed (59.6%)
- Failure Rate on Bills SAM supported: 19/47 Bills Failed (40.5%)
- Passage Rate on Bills SAM opposed: 1/8 Bills Passed (12.5%)
- Failure Rate on Bills SAM opposed: 7/8 Bill Failed (87.5%)

This data indicates that we were relatively effective in playing offense by passing 28 of the 47 bills SAM supported. This data also indicates that we were quite effective in playing defense by having only 1 of the 8 opposed bills pass the legislature. As stated in the introductory remarks, SAM was active in helping to write the bill language in several instances that passed and are now law.

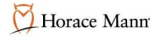
The [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status Report 4-30-19](#) shows detailed information about the bills SAM followed and their final status in the 66th Legislative session.

Following the Session, the focus of SAM and MT-PEC has turned to the development of professional learning (training PD) for our members to leverage flexibility and resources during times of scarcity. Helping our school administrators develop an understanding of the flexibility and resources resulting from the 2019 legislative session actions and that of previous legislative sessions is of highest priority this spring, summer and into the fall of 2019. An example would be full understanding of the ability to develop early childhood education authorized under current law, notably the exceptional circumstances clause of MCA 20-5-101(3), as a way to provide opportunities in your district to our youngest learners. You can expect to see this professional learning opportunity at the SAM Administrators Institute 2019 in July, and also at MCEL in October 2019. SAM will make this effort because we know that our members, administrators all across the state, will benefit from learning about all of the opportunities that flexibility and resources can bring to their schools, and the impact it will have on creating learning opportunities for the students served in those schools.

Thank you to the SAM members in the SAM Legislative Network 2019, SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee Chairman Rick Duncan, for his effort to support SAM advocacy during the session, our partners in the MT-PEC, and many legislators for committing their time and energy in creating this success for the



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Respectfully Submitted,

Kirk



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