

School Administrators of Montana



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

META Reorganizational Meeting – Executive Director Report – May 17, 2017

SAM was organized as an association of administrators in 1970. It represents the interests, aspirations, and professional leadership of Montana administrators. Over 1000 members network under six affiliate associations ([MASS](#), [MAEMSP](#), [MASSP](#), [MCASE](#), [MACSS](#), [META](#)) to promote GREAT Montana Schools, supporting leader's passion for providing an outstanding education to Montana's children!

SAM Strategic Plan Goal Areas

1. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership
2. Advocacy
3. Professional Learning and Services

Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership

- Indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana's schools.
- Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community.
- Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana's children!
- Active participation by SAM members in research and implementation of issues impacting education – [Montana ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#), [HB 374 Suicide Prevention Workgroup](#), Special Ed Coop Funding Task Force, Content Standards Committees, Montana Early Childhood Education, [Chapter 57 flexibility in educator licensure review](#), AdvancED accreditation, and others.
- Cooperating with partners in the development of – [RISE4MT](#) educator recruitment and retention effort, [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#), [Montana Educator Performance Appraisal System \(EPAS\)](#), [EducationSuperHighway](#) Broadband Access Initiative, Montana K-12 Connectivity Workgroup, [Montana Farm 2 School](#) Task Force, [Montana Afterschool Alliance](#) Steering Council, Montana Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Workgroup, Montana CSPD Stakeholder Group.

Advocacy

- SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and are prepared to advocate for public education.
- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM) formed the Montana Public Education Center ([MT-PEC](#)) creating a positive impact and strong voice on education policy issues.
- Proactive relationships with the Governor's office, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System, Montana Legislators, Congressional Delegation, and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- Working closely with the K-12 Vision Group and MT-PEC to establish areas of focus for the 2017 legislative session and education advocacy issues.

(Over)

Advocacy (continued)

- [2017 Legislative Session](#) webpage provides SAM members with all of the resources developed by SAM to assist in advocacy during the legislative session. A review of progress will take place at the Board meeting. The [SAMLN17](#) webpage has the latest information for updates.
- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) has developed a long range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level (DA Steering Committee process). Delegate Assembly met on June 16-17, 2016 creating advocacy recommendations. SAM membership approved the SAM advocacy package at the SAM Business Meeting on October 20, 2016.
- [SAM Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions Approved 10-20-16](#) by the SAM membership:
 - Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (Recruiting Incredible School Educators [Rise4Montana](#)). Emphasis on public school health insurance costs
 - Oppose Privatization with Public Funds
 - Support [Special Education Funding Adequacy and Equity](#). [MCASE Advocacy Talking Points](#).
 - Support Capital Facilities/Technology Infrastructure Needs
- SAM members' lead and participated in the development of the [MT ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#) for implementation of the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) led to the [Final Plan](#) sent to USED on 12/28/16. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen has informed the Stakeholder Council, that the Montana Plan awaits review of the US Department of Education and changes to ESSA rules enacted by the Trump administration and that the Stakeholder Council will be informed.
- SAM is working closely with partners in the education community on challenges in the implementation of the SB 410 Tuition Tax Credit bill (2015 legislative session) in association with the [MQEC](#).
- [School Funding Interim Commission \(SFIC\)](#) met in 2015-16 producing a [final report](#), which SAM and MT-PEC acknowledged, but indicated that the report falls short of adequacy and equity to develop the full potential of every child through the basic system of elementary and secondary schools.
- [Federal advocacy](#) for SAM and affiliates is outlined to return federal control to states and districts while retaining the funding intended to provide equitable education for all children.

Professional Learning and Services

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
- The [SAM LPLP 2017-18](#) is enhanced to provide opportunities to all SAM members (check out the videos and [SAM LPLP Resource Center Sample](#). The launch was included in the SAM Membership Drive beginning April 3, 2017.
- [SAM AI 2017](#) will feature Dr. Bill Daggett (August 1) returning to continue the great dialogue with school district teams of administrators and teachers to emphasize transformational change!
- Plans to renew and develop an outstanding MCEL 2017 (October 18-20, 2017) are underway. The venue is moved to downtown Billings at the Northern Hotel and Double Tree Hotel. Innovative technology and general session speakers will invigorate and motivate our Montana education leaders!
- [#SAMedchat](#) – weekly Twitter chat group on Thursdays, 7-8 pm. Please feel free to join in!
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 12 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the [Conferences](#) tab on the website.
- SAM implementing new [association management software](#), upgrading [website](#) and tools for members.
- [SAM Membership 2016-17 Quarter 3](#) shows 1018 members, a new record, with each affiliate increasing! The [SAM Membership 2017-18](#) drive launched on April 3, 2017