

# Major Actions of SAM DA 2016 on 6-17-16

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## POSITIONS

### TEACHER & ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

SAM affirms that teacher and administrator retention and recruitment are keys to quality education. It supports efforts to support mentoring and to fund incentives for recruitment and retention of staff. Districts are faced with an increasing need to compete with other states for a shrinking pool of qualified candidates. The legislature must address current laws, administrative rules, and funding support to provide districts the flexibility to retain personnel and to compete for new candidates.

Designation: ~~Support~~ **Action**

### TECHNOLOGY

SAM believes technology is now and will forever be an integral part of our culture and presents ever changing challenges and opportunities for our students. Schools throughout Montana struggle to finance critical technology infrastructure. Educational services requiring technology are not available to all Montana Students. Therefore SAM will support:

- Administrative, operational and learning process change at the federal, state, district and school levels must be addressed strategically where goals, resources and timing for improvement are managed cohesively.
- Baseline funding for supportive technology infrastructure should be addressed by a variety of methods that include; mechanisms that account for life cycle cost of ownership, technology that is driven by changes in classroom and/or curricular needs, and operational technology related to business function necessary to run a school district (i.e. State reporting, security systems, telecommunications, etc). Districts would be encouraged to fund additional infrastructure and capabilities as demanded by their environments.
- Technology education for administrators, staff and students is timely, relevant, and compulsory.
- The management of technology requires a baseline of understanding and education. School administrators and leaders need support in specific process and technology implementation management.
- Technology planning, implementation and support functions, requiring specialized skills and knowledge, are accomplished by professional staff or contracted consultants according to specific district business models.

Designation: ~~Support~~ **Action**

## MASS Caucus Proposal (Position Statement)

### ~~Resolution #01/09/10-09~~ STATEWIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

~~WHEREAS, current health insurance programs available to local school districts are consuming larger amounts of the district employees income and district general funds; and~~

~~WHEREAS, there is evidence that both the University Health Insurance and Public Employee Health Insurance Pools are considerably lower in cost than other plans available to local school districts; and~~

~~WHEREAS, state funding of public education is the equivalent to state funding of the University System and Public Employee System health insurance pools; and~~

~~WHEREAS, local school districts are facing difficult financial problems, including an aging group of employees who desire health insurance benefits as part of retirement programs, and new employees who desire low cost shared health benefits;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM will work with legislators to introduce legislation to establish a statewide public school employees' insurance program; and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports cooperative wellness efforts by districts to promote improved employee health; and~~

~~BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that SAM supports the removal of the words "except for a school district" from current statute, MCA 2-09-212.~~

SAM will seek legislative changes to find a method for relief to health insurance costs.

Designation: Action

## MASS Caucus Proposal

### Change to a Position

#### ~~Resolution #16-03~~ REGIONAL SERVICE AGENCY STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE DEFINED IN LAW

~~WHEREAS, the 2011 Legislature passed SB329 which encouraged school districts to form cooperatives of two or more school districts in order to "optimize resources and save money"; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Southwest Montana School Services (SWMSS) was formed in June of 2012 by 42 school districts in Southwest Montana who contributed funds to form a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization to provide services to its members at reduced prices based on member needs; and~~

~~WHEREAS, SWMSS has partnered with OPI to provide schools in Region IV with services including professional development, curriculum service etc. which are more efficiently delivered on a regional basis; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Schools find it desirable to work with a regional support organization providing them needed services to optimize resources and which the regional schools govern; and~~

~~WHEREAS, this model would work in other regions of the state and in fact other regions are interested in duplicating this model;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED, SWMSS seeks to have SAM will work in collaboration with other public education advocacy groups in developing necessary guidelines, policies, structures and other resources to assist school districts in establishing/structuring/implementing regional service center areas to maximize efficiencies and optimize resources under existing law. that regional service agencies have a structure and governance defined in state law; and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that they act primarily as service agencies in providing services and/or programs as identified and requested by member school districts (services may include, but are not limited to, professional development, instructional materials, educational technology, curriculum development and alternative educational programs); and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that regional service agencies, provide for economy, efficiency and cost effectiveness in the cooperative delivery and purchase or lease of educational services, materials and products; and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that regional service agencies provide administrative services (services may include, but are not limited to, communications/public information, employee background checks, grants management, printing/publications and internships); and~~

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that regional service agencies provide educational services through leadership, research and development in elementary and secondary education; and act in a cooperative and supporting role, including contracting, with the Montana Office of Public Instruction, Montana University System and Community Colleges and other state organizations in the development and implementation of long-range plans, strategies and goals for the enhancement of educational opportunities in elementary and secondary education; and~~

~~BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the School Administrators of Montana actively support and pursue legislation that would authorize and encourage the formation of regional education service agencies to provide a variety of services to schools.~~

Designation: Support

## **META Change to Position**

### **Resolution #16-10— SUPPORT OF TRAINING FOR FEDERAL E-RATE REIMBURSEMENT**

~~WHEREAS, federal E-rate funding is a fundamental element in a school district's technology budget; and~~

~~WHEREAS, properly trained I.T. Directors and Business Managers ensure a smooth E-rate application and reporting process, as well as maximizing federal resources for the District; and~~

~~WHEREAS, these federal funds are provided as direct reimbursement to local Montana School District Budgets; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Montana schools will benefit from better long term planning and decision making to maximize Federal E-Rate reimbursement to meet student and staff needs;~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana legislature will provide funding to support training for 20 geographically dispersed IT Directors and Business Managers to serve as “trainers” that will leverage their expertise to ensure every district in Montana is taking advantage of the Federal E-Rate funding.~~

SAM will support a model for training for E-Rate applications and submittal to leverage expertise to ensure every district in Montana is taking advantage of the Federal E-Rate funding.

**Designation: Support**

## RESOLUTIONS

### **Resolution #04/14/16-02 – PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, high quality pre-school programs contribute to later academic and social success; and

WHEREAS, many of Montana students do not have access to quality pre-school programs;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports the development of additional and continued fully funded universal pre-school programs in Montana; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that SAM supports the development of high standards for both pre-school programs and pre-school teacher quality.

Designation: ~~Action~~ Support

### **Resolution #10/16-01 – UNIFIED RECRUITMENT & RETENTION**

WHEREAS, Montana has significant difficulty in recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and related service professionals in general and special education; and

WHEREAS, Montana has historically experienced difficulty in the recruitment and retention of low incidence professional positions, such as speech pathologists, school psychologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, sign language interpreters and other professional staff necessary for the provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act 2005 (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, Montana has historically experienced difficulty in the recruitment and retention of general education professional positions necessary to provide instructional service which meet accreditation standards; and

WHEREAS, school districts currently spend a significant amount of resources including time and money on the recruitment and retention of low incidence personnel; and

WHEREAS, a unified collaborative effort towards statewide recruitment and retention would be more cost effective and efficient; and

WHEREAS, recruitment and retention of highly qualified/low incidence positions is difficult due to the geographic isolation of many communities of Montana; and

~~WHEREAS, Montana's Comprehensive System of Personnel Development has actively engaged in statewide recruitment activities as a part of the state plan; and~~

WHEREAS, Office of Public Instruction has worked collaboratively with Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education on the recruitment and retention of highly qualified/low incidence personnel ~~for the past three years~~; and

WHEREAS, Montana continues to have chronic shortages ~~despite these extensive recruitment efforts~~;

BE IT RESOLVED: That SAM supports the implementation of a unified recruitment and retention program designed to address current personnel shortages in both general and special education.

Designation: ~~Support~~ Action

MACSS Caucus Proposal

[MASS Amendment](#)

**Resolution #16-01 – ONLINE VERIFICATION AND GRACE PERIOD FOR REGISTERING EDUCATOR LICENSE**

WHEREAS, educators must register their certificates within 60 calendar days of performing contracted services per MCA 20-4-202; and

WHEREAS, only the original certificate can be registered; and

WHEREAS, MCA 20-4-202 does not allow a grace period to address registering certificates with a County Superintendent of Schools Office; and

WHEREAS, it has become difficult to register certificates with a County Superintendent of Schools Office within the 60 calendar day period either through part time office hours or licensure issues;

BE IT RESOLVED, that SAM supports legislative action to add the option to allow a grace period in registering the original certificate with ~~consistent access to~~ communication to the County Superintendent of Schools ~~for to initiate~~ online verification of certificate ~~registration through scanning and submitting~~

~~through email or digital affidavit from~~ through MSIS and/or the TEAMS/FTE Report up to the December 1 teacher assignment deadline.

Designation: Support

## MASS Caucus Proposal

### **Resolution #16-02 – STATE TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT FOR ACADEMIC SUMMER SCHOOL [Failed to be approved by the DA Steering Committee]**

**WHEREAS**, the challenges of academic improvement are not limited to a 180 day school year; and

**WHEREAS**, current law allows provision of education throughout the year, computed on the basis of minimum aggregate hours of instruction, without any limitation to the number of days on which such instruction is provided; and

**WHEREAS**, significant research exists supporting the value of expanded and year round learning opportunities in addressing achievement gaps and preventing summer learning loss; and

**WHEREAS**, the needs of students in poverty to have access to quality classroom instruction are further limited by the current 180 day limit on state transportation reimbursement under MCA 20-10-145; and

**WHEREAS**, the current organization of schools statewide is limited by geography, and

**WHEREAS**, the education system in Montana is constantly adapting to the changing demographics of the student population in our state; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of State Transportation reimbursement is expressly prohibited by the criteria set forth in MCA 20-10-145; and

**WHEREAS**, Montana school districts use all possible resources to be able to offer extended learning opportunities to their students, and

**WHEREAS**, communities should have the right to determine how, when, and upon what terms education is provided through their public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, current law penalizes communities that choose to organize their school calendar over the summer months by prohibiting state transportation reimbursement;

**BE IT RESOLVED, that academic summer programs would be approved by the local trustees under the policy for student enrollment for exceptional circumstances before requesting reimbursement.**

**BE IT RESOLVED, that any additional county transportation reimbursement be approved by the county transportation committee;**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that state transportation reimbursement should be aligned with any and all viable pupil instruction, including non-aggregate hour calculations for summer school instruction; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the SAM supports academic improvement through extended learning opportunities for all Montana’s publically educated students that would remove the 180 day limit on state transportation reimbursement as cited in MCA 20-10-145.

**Designation: Support**

**Resolution #16-04 – ANB PAYMENT MODIFICATION FOR 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**WHEREAS**, schools are funded in the State of Montana through a variety of sources. The Montana Legislature funds public schools in part based on the number of students in attendance in a school district. For school funding purposes, the number of students enrolled in school is referred to as the Average Number Belonging or ANB; and

**WHEREAS**, currently the Elementary District receives \$5,348 per ANB for 6<sup>th</sup> graders and \$6,847 per ANB for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders; and

**WHEREAS**, like many districts throughout the United States, several Montana school districts are moving to a grade 6-8 middle school model. This model is beneficial as it allows students to explore a wider array of courses, particularly elective courses, at an earlier age. Students are allowed to explore opportunities and find passions that oftentimes carry over into high school. Moreover, students can frequently gain experiences and even credits that will benefit them in high school and beyond; and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the following costs would be associated with the resolution:

Cost of funding 6th graders at high school funding levels	
Difference in ANB, Elementary vs. Max	\$1,497
Statewide expansion of Max Budget	\$16,633,512
Statewide expansion of BASE Budget	\$13,306,810
State Cost Per Year	\$10,479,113
District BASE levy increase, Nonvoted	\$2,827,697
District Over BASE levy increase, Voted	\$3,326,702

**BE IT RESOLVED**, it is therefore logical that the Montana Legislature modify school funding so that the per ANB payment for 6<sup>th</sup> graders is the same as that for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, as reflected in amending Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306 (15)(c); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ~~the Boards of Trustees of Billings Elementary District 2 and Billings High School District 2~~ **SAM** hereby requests that the 2017 Montana Legislature modify school funding so that the per ANB payment for 6<sup>th</sup> graders is the same as that for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, as reflected in this draft amendment to Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306 (15)(c):

Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306 (15) "Total per-ANB entitlement" means the district entitlement resulting from the following calculations and using either the current year ANB or the 3-year ANB provided for in 20-9-311:

(c) for an elementary school district or a K-12 district elementary program with an approved and accredited junior high school, 7th and 8th grade program, or middle school, the sum of:

(i) a maximum rate of \$5,348 for fiscal year 2016 and \$5,444 for each succeeding fiscal year for the first ANB for kindergarten through grade 6, decreased at the rate of 20 cents per ANB for each additional ANB up through 1,000 ANB, with each ANB in excess of 1,000 receiving the same amount of entitlement as the 1,000th ANB; and

(ii) a maximum rate of \$6,847 for fiscal year 2016 and \$6,970 for each succeeding fiscal year for the first ANB for grades 6, 7 and 8, decreased at the rate of 50 cents per ANB for each additional ANB for grades 6, 7 and 8 up through 800 ANB, with each ANB in excess of 800 receiving the same amount of entitlement as the 800th ANB.

**Designation: Support**

### **Resolution #16-05 – CHANGE COMPULSORY ENROLLMENT AGE FROM 7 TO 6 YEARS OLD**

**WHEREAS**, it is well-documented that students who are provided a formal education at an earlier age have greater successes throughout their schooling; and

**WHEREAS**, several initiatives have been put forth in an effort to get students into schools at an early age, Montana law currently only requires compulsory enrollment at the age of 7; and

**WHEREAS**, this makes it difficult for schools to ensure that students are attending school. Moreover, as Montana law caps funding for students at the age of 19, compulsory enrollment beginning at 7 creates situations where students may “age out” of school, causing the potential for dropouts;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Montana Code Section 20-5-102, be amended to change the compulsory enrollment age from 7 to 6 years.

**Designation: Support**

### **MASS Caucus Proposal**

### **MAEMSP Caucus Proposal (Adding SAM, removing Billings District)**

### **Resolution #16-06 – ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CAREER AND VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, the Montana Legislature appropriated \$1.5 million in each year of the 2017 biennium for secondary vocational education programs. These appropriations maintain the state funding at the FY 2014 base expenditure level; and

**WHEREAS**, career and technical education prepares Montana ~~K-12~~ students for a wide range of careers and post-secondary education programs. Career and technical education courses are found in schools across Montana,



middle schools, high schools and the technical schools. Examples of such courses are: Jobs for Montana Graduates, Principles of Biomedical Sciences, Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, Electronics, Botany and Urban Agriculture, Design Advertising, Building Trades, Welding, Machining, Auto Care, and Early Child Development; and

**WHEREAS**, career and technical education courses provide students with life and employment skills to make them highly desirable employees in today's modern workforce. Skills learned in ~~K-12~~ career and technical education courses prepare students to go directly into the workforce or to continue their education with a much higher degree of focus and direction for their career goals; and

**WHEREAS**, Montana has over 500 approved career and technical education programs and over 800 certified teachers in Agriculture, Business, Marketing, Family and Consumer Sciences, Industrial Technology, and Health Sciences. At least 156 Montana high schools participate in the federal Carl D. Perkins and state Career and Technical Education grant programs to support and improve their Career and Technical Education programs. Accordingly, over 41,188 students state-wide would benefit from additional CTE funding; and

**WHEREAS**, career and technical education benefits not only our students, but our local employers and local economy;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, ~~the Boards of Trustees of Billings Elementary District 2 and Billings High School District 2~~ **SAM** hereby request that the 2017 Montana Legislature increase the state's support of career and technical education by appropriating \$1 million in each year of the 2019 biennium for secondary vocational education programs.

**Designation: Support**

## MASSP Caucus Proposal

### MASS Caucus Proposal (change of designation)

#### **Resolution #16-08 – ANB ALLOCATION FOR TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE UPGRADES**

**WHEREAS**, every school district in Montana strives to provide a quality education for every student that culminates in college and career readiness; and

**WHEREAS**, every school district in Montana is united in the belief that All students deserve to be successful; and

**WHEREAS**, every school district in Montana is striving to provide 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning opportunities and needed skills; and

**WHEREAS**, every school district in Montana is funded through a variety of sources, but primarily by the average number of students in attendance or ANB, and

**WHEREAS**, Timber sales have been used to historically fund technology but that revenue stream has continued to decline and now represents a minute fraction of needed monetary resources to fuel technology; and

**WHEREAS**, schools are having difficulties in funding for technology and funding is not equitable across the state for upgrading, maintaining, and supporting technology hardware in schools; and

**WHEREAS**, a basic allocation per student, ~~similar to~~ ( e.g. Data Achievement (MCA 20-9-325) (?), would bring a constant revenue that school districts ~~could~~ **would** support refreshing technology hardware on at least a five year

cycle (industry standard). A basic annual allocation of \$50 per student over a five year span would generate \$250; which may not cover the complete cost of hardware for a student, but enough that a district can do more effective and efficient planning (Include this Fiscal Note in Supporting Information); and

**WHEREAS**, it is anticipated that the following costs would be associated with the resolution:

Cost of funding technology hardware for a five year refresh cycle	
Per student allocation of \$50 with 144,532 students (as of 2014-2015)	\$7,226,600

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the ~~Great Falls School District~~ SAM hereby requests that the 2017 Montana Legislature increase the state’s funding for technology by appropriating \$7,226,600 million each year for technology hardware.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SAM supports an increase in funding beyond the services already allocated to support schools.

**Designation:** ~~Support Action Support~~

## MAEMSP Caucus Proposal

### Resolution #16-09 – SUPPORT OF MINIMUM BANDWIDTH FOR SCHOOLS

**WHEREAS**, blended classrooms that integrate technology and rich media resources have become essential in the 21st Century classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Department of Education and State Education Technology Directors Association recommendations require 1Mbps per student to ensure a media rich learning environment; and

**WHEREAS**, many rural schools in the state ~~still~~ cannot meet basic bandwidth requirements for state mandated online testing; and

**WHEREAS**, Montana represents one of the largest sectors of entrepreneurial activity in the country, demonstrating that our students will need access to digital resources to compete globally in careers and college upon graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, decisions on appropriate bandwidth speeds and service are best made by the administration and trustees of local school districts;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the legislators will work with the Governor's office, Education Super Highway, META, and SAM to ~~ensure state funding to support a 10% state match to school district applications for Federal ERate funding to provide adequate and affordable bandwidth for Montana’s schools~~ ensure a minimum of 1mbs per student for all Montana public education students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, ~~META~~, SAM and the State of Montana will explore supporting **PK-20** connectivity consortiums to allow schools to tie into the State University systems for connectivity to University classrooms and other educational resources.

**Designation:** Support

**Resolution #16-11 – REMOVING THE LIMIT DURATION ON TECHNOLOGY LEVY FUNDING**

**WHEREAS**, technology is an ever evolving and necessary tool in every Montana classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts rely on technology levies to fund the network, student and staff devices, curricular and operational software purchases, as well as training, repairs and support; and

**WHEREAS**, in many budget years, the general fund has to cover a significant number of those costs; and

**WHEREAS**, General Fund budgets in many districts are limited to the base budget given local taxpayer's avoidance of operational levies that allow districts to adopt maximum budgets, leaving District's basic operational resources too tight to meet the needs of 21st Century classrooms;

**WHEREAS**, limiting a technology levy's duration to 10 years, as well as District's risking a previously approved perpetual technology levy ~~could be catastrophic to the~~ **may restrict a** district's ability to ensure ongoing technological integrity;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, section 6 will strike the 10 year maximum limitation and section 8 will be deleted from MCA 20-9-533.

**Designation: Support**