



**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**  
*Delegate Assembly 2016 Proposed New Resolutions*

As Approved by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee on 5-5-16  
for Recommendation to Delegate Assembly 2016  
Recommendations of SAM Caucus's for Delegate Assembly 2016 on 6/17/16

Proposed Resolutions are in font colors by Affiliate: **MASS, MASSP, MAEMSP, META, MACSS, MCASE**  
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### **MACSS Caucus Proposal**

#### **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**

**Submitted by Jessica McWilliams (Garfield County Superintendent) on 2-1-16 for MACSS**

#### Supporting Information

### **Montana Code Annotated 2015**

**20-4-202. Teacher and specialist certification registration.** (1) Any person employed as a teacher, specialist, principal, or district superintendent shall register the person's certificate or the district shall register its emergency authorization of employment for a teacher with the county superintendent of the county in which the person is employed in order to validate the person's employment status and permit payment under the employment contract. If a teacher or specialist does not register the person's certificate with the county superintendent within 60 calendar days after the person begins to perform services, the person is not eligible to receive any further compensation under the contract of employment until the person has registered the certificate. After the schools of a district have been open for 60 calendar days in the current school fiscal year, the county superintendent shall notify each district of the county of each teacher or specialist who has registered a current valid certificate, and the district may not pay any teacher who has not registered the person's certificate until the county superintendent does notify the district of the registration.

(2) A teacher or specialist employed by a joint district shall register the person's certificate with the county superintendent of



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the county in which the person is working. A teacher or specialist employed by a special education cooperative shall register the person's certificate with the county superintendent of the county in which the special education cooperative is based.

History: En. 75-6106 by Sec. 87, Ch. 5, L. 1971; and. Sec. 3, Ch. 277, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 75-6106; and. Sec. 15, Ch. 511, L. 1979; and. Sec. 1, Ch. 330, L. 1987; and. Sec. 291, Ch. 56, L. 2009.

### **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

**Comment [KM1]:** Added from previous deleted resolution

**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 before requesting reimbursement.**



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**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**

**Submitted by Ron Whitmoyer (Superintendent of East Helena Schools) on 3-23-16 for MASS**

**Supporting Information**

Need to determine a fiscal note.

Is this only for summer school academic programs – credit recovery, tutoring – how do you determine programming?

Could this also include language for afterschool programs as this was lost in the deletion of the current resolution?

**Proposed Resolution #16-02 Failed to be approved by the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee by lack of a motion to approve.**

**Comment [KM2]:** Different than previous deleted resolution. After school and other programs in previous resolution

**Comment [KM3]:** Of note for Caucus consideration



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## **MASS Caucus Proposal**

### **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 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~~



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~~**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**

Submitted by Bruce Grubbs (Executive Director SWMSS and MASS member) on 2-22-16 for MASS

**Supporting Information**

Based on the model demonstrated by the formation of Southwest Montana School Services which was formed by school districts as a result of SB329 passed during the 2011 legislative session we are proposing that SAM actively support legislation during the 2017 session that would create a structure for regional service agencies in state law to provide a variety of services to school based on the needs of school in each region. The purpose being to provide schools in each region the opportunity to create efficiencies and optimize their resources. Other regions in the state are interested in creating regional organizations which language in state law would help encourage. The intent is also to encourage OPI to contract for services when appropriate with regional service agencies when they can be delivered more efficiently on a regional basis.

**How is the resolution anticipated to advance the interests of all of Montana's public schools, and/or public school students and/or increase student success?**

This resolution would allow schools to collaborate to share services through the regional service agency as demonstrated by Southwest Montana School Services to optimize resources and provide services that may not otherwise be available at a reasonable cost to some schools, especially smaller districts. This would also create one place to find educational services.

**Statewide Impact**

More access to services at reasonable cost for all schools. This would create more equity in availability of support services for schools, which ultimately will improve student achievement.



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**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):

**Comment [KM4]:** Acknowledges the resolution comes from SAM and is supported by SAM if approved

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:



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(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~~ 5, 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**

**Submitted by Terry Bouck (Superintendent of Billings Schools) on 3-23-16 for MASS**

**Supporting Information**

**1. Name of member school system submitting the resolution.**

Billings Public Schools

**2. Date upon which the Board of Trustees affirmatively voted to submit the resolution for consideration?**

January 25, 2016

**3. Please paste (or attach a copy of) the relevant portion of the minutes of the Board meeting at which the resolution was approved for submission.**

A motion was made to authorize the Superintendent and Board Clerk, along with staff as needed, to work with legal counsel in completing resolutions regarding CTE funding, compulsory attendance age and ANB of 6<sup>th</sup> graders, to be submitted to MTSBA and SAM no later than February 15, 2016. Motion passed unanimously. **\*\*Note, the minutes of the meeting have not yet been approved.**

**4. What is the conceptual change sought? Please provide an overview of the Intended purpose of the resolution.**

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. This resolution seeks to equalize the ANB for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with those of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.



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**5. What sections of law do you anticipate need to be changed? (Please list the sections of law, but not the specific changes sought to such laws, so as to ensure sufficient flexibility regarding how to Implement the change.)**

We anticipate changes to a number of sections of law, included, but not limited to Mont. Code Ann. § 20-9-306 (15)(c).

**6. How is the resolution anticipated to advance the Interests of all of Montana's public schools, and/or public school students and/or increase student success?**

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. 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.

**7. What are the anticipated sources of external opposition?**

We anticipate opposition from legislators and groups opposed to increased funding for public schools and/or opposed to public schools generally.

**8. What are the anticipated sources of internal opposition or division within the education community and what steps have been taken, if any, to mitigate/minimize or resolve such division?**

We do not anticipate any sources of internal opposition or division at this time.

**9. What is the projected statewide Impact on Montana's public schools of the proposed resolution?**

Student performance would increase, attendance and graduation rates would increase, students would enter high school with greater opportunities including high school credit.

**10. Please provide any additional background, explanation or other context for the resolution that you would like to be considered during the deliberations of the Delegate Assembly.**

No further additional information.





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**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**

**Submitted by Terry Bouck (Superintendent of Billings Schools) on 3-23-16 for MASS**

**Support Information**

- 1. Name of member school system submitting the resolution.**  
Billings Public Schools
- 2. Date upon which the Board of Trustees affirmatively voted to submit the resolution for consideration:**  
January 25, 2016
- 3. Please paste (or attach a copy of) the relevant portion of the minutes of the Board meeting at which the resolution was approved**  
A motion was made to authorize the Superintendent and Board Clerk, along with staff as needed, to work with legal counsel in completing resolutions regarding CTE funding, compulsory attendance age and ANB of 6<sup>th</sup> graders, to be submitted to MTSBA and SAM no later than February 15, 2016. Motion passed unanimously. **\*\*Note**, the minutes of the meeting have not yet been approved.
- 4. What is the conceptual change sought? Please provide an overview of the Intended purpose of the resolution.**  
This resolution seeks to change the compulsory enrollment age from 7 to 6 years.



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**5. What sections of law do you anticipate need to be changed? (Please list the sections of law, but not the specific changes sought to such laws, so as to ensure sufficient flexibility regarding how to Implement the change.)**

We anticipate changes to a number of sections of law, included, but not limited to Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-102.

**6. How is the resolution anticipated to advance the Interests of all of Montana's public schools, and/or public school students and/or increase student success?**

It is well-documented that students who are provided a formal education at an earlier age have greater successes throughout their schooling. While 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. 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.

**7. What are the anticipated sources of external opposition?**

We anticipate opposition from legislators and groups opposed to public schools and/or opposed to government mandates.

**8. What are the anticipated sources of internal opposition or division within the education community and what steps have been taken, if any, to mitigate/minimize or resolve such division?**

We do not anticipate sources of internal opposition or division at this time.

**9. What is the projected statewide impact on Montana's public schools of the proposed resolution?**

Schools would be allowed to greater impress the importance of school attendance, and would be able to better serve students before they reach the age of 19. Both would help battle state-wide dropout of students.

**10. Please provide any additional background, explanation or other context for the resolution that you would like to be considered during the deliberations of the Delegate Assembly.**

No further additional information.

It is anticipated that less than 150 students, state-wide, would be affected by the change. It is anticipated that the following numbers would be associated with the resolution:

Age at First Enrollment	Students (2010)	Students (2011)	Students (2012)	Students (2013)	Students (2014)	Students (2015)
6 and younger	9,678	9,790	10,212	10,084	10,383	9,987
7	47	40	34	42	49	41
8 and older	37	18	23	154	62	96



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Total coming in after age 6		<b>84</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>137</b>
Total First Enrollments	9,762	9,848	10,269	10,280	10,494	10,124	
October Count	141,691	141,560	142,225	142,796	144,031	144,446	



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## **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**

**Submitted by Terry Bouck (Superintendent of Billings Schools) on 3-23-16 for MASS**



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**Supporting Information**

**1. Name of member school system submitting the resolution.**

Billings Public Schools

**2. Date upon which the Board of Trustees affirmatively voted to submit the resolution for consideration?**

January 25, 2016

**3. Please paste (or attach a copy of) the relevant portion of the minutes of the Board meeting at which the resolution was approved.**

A motion was made to authorize the Superintendent and Board Clerk, along with staff as needed, to work with legal counsel in completing resolutions regarding CTE funding, compulsory attendance age and ANB of 6<sup>th</sup> graders, to be submitted to MTSBA and SAM no later than February 15, 2016. Motion passed unanimously. **\*\*Note, the minutes of the meeting have not yet been approved.**

**4. What is the conceptual change sought? Please provide an overview of the Intended purpose of the resolution.**

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. This resolution seeks to increase the funding for Career Technical Education (“CTE”) by appropriating \$1 million in each year of the 2019 biennium for secondary vocational education programs.

**5. What sections of law do you anticipate need to be changed? (Please list the sections of law, but not the specific changes sought to such laws, so as to ensure sufficient flexibility regarding how to Implement the change.)**

We anticipate changes to a number of sections of law, included, but not limited to M.C.A. §20-9-311 CTE funding under the current formula.

**6. How is the resolution anticipated to advance the Interests of all of Montana's public schools, and/or public school students and/or increase student success?**

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.

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



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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.

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. More than 150 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.

**7. What are the anticipated sources of external opposition?**

We anticipate opposition from legislators and groups opposed to increased funding for public schools and/or opposed to public schools generally.

**8. What are the anticipated sources of internal opposition or division within the education community and what steps have been taken, if any, to mitigate/minimize or resolve such division?**

We do not anticipate any sources of internal opposition or division at this time.

**9. What is the projected statewide Impact on Montana's public schools of the proposed resolution?**

Career and technical education benefits not only Montana students, but our local employers and local economy.

**10. Please provide any additional background, explanation or other context for the resolution that you would like to be considered during the deliberations of the Delegate Assembly.**

Additional information attached for consideration.



**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**  
*Delegate Assembly 2016 Proposed New Resolutions*  
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Recommendations of SAM Caucus's for Delegate Assembly 2016 on 6/17/16

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**Resolution #16-07 – ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR MANDATED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, IDEA, as federal law, mandates a free appropriate public education for children with disabilities, ages 3-21. (Title I, B, 612, a, 1, A) with provision for State level statutory language to limit services to children with disabilities ages 18-21 (Title 1, B, 612, a, 1, B, ii); and

**WHEREAS**, most Montana school districts limit attendance to age 19, mandated special education services in the State typically address the needs of children with disabilities ages 3-19; and

**WHEREAS**, inadequate State funding of mandated special education services negatively impacts the education of all students by effectively decreasing the amount of general funds available to support general education programming;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that SAM will prioritize adequate funding of mandated special education services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SAM will prioritize support of legislative action for statutory language that includes the special education appropriation in the group of education appropriations subject to the mandatory inflationary increase; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SAM will prioritize support of legislative action to increase monetary investment in Cooperative infrastructure without reducing payments for the Instructional Services Block Grant, Related Services Block Grant, and the Disproportionate Cost Reimbursement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that SAM recognizes proposals for new program entitlements for students outside the current age-range of State-funded educational programs may negatively impact funding consideration for mandated special education services; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that SAM will prioritize support of legislative action for inflationary increases for special education and increased monetary investment in Cooperative infrastructure above advocacy efforts for new program entitlements for students outside the current age-range of State funded educational programs.

**Designation: Action**

**Submitted by Chris Rice on 4-29-16 for MCASE**

**Supporting Information**



**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**  
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**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.

**Comment [KM5]:** Suggestions from DA Steering Committee to revise and move some of this to the Supporting Info

**Comment [KM6]:** Clarifying that if approve, this will be a SAM Resolution





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

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

**Submitted by Jon Konen (President of MAEMSP and Principal of Lincoln Elementary) on 4/22/16 for MAEMSP and on behalf of Tammy Lacey (Superintendent of Great Falls Public Schools).**

**Supporting Information**

**1. Name of member school system submitting the resolution.**

Great Falls Public Schools

**2. Date upon which the Board of trustees affirmatively voted to submit the resolution for consideration?**

NA

**3. Please paste (at attach a copy of) the relevant portion of the minutes of the board meeting at which the resolution was approved for submission.**

NA

**4. What is the conception change sought? Please provide an overview of the Intended purpose of the resolution.**

This resolution asks the Montana Legislature to create an allocation to every public school for technology hardware. The allocation based on ANB of every school of \$50 would generate over \$7 million dollars for schools and help with the refresh cycle of at least 5 years (industry standard).

**5. What sections of law do you anticipate need to be changed? (Please list the sections of law, but not the specific changes sought to such laws, so as to ensure sufficiently flexibility regarding how to implement the change.**

20-9-533, Technology acquisition and depreciation fund – limitations.

20-9-534. Statutory appropriation for school technology purposes.

**6. How is the resolution anticipated to advance the Interests of all of Montana's public schools, and/or public school students and/or increase student success?**

All Montana public school students need access to technology in order to compete with an ever changing world. Almost all jobs require a minimum level of technology knowledge. Increased student access will be evident and anticipated in all schools.



**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**  
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**7. What are the anticipated sources of external opposition?**

Opposition will come from taxpayers that may have just passed a levy within in their school district, as well as legislators that believe that technology should be funded through local school districts.

**8. What are the anticipated source of internal opposition or division within the education community and what steps have been taken, if any, to mitigate/minimize or resolve such division?**

Division within the education community may come from school districts that have recently passed a technology levy. This requested allocation is above and beyond the technology levies already passed. This allocation will help support all those districts that cannot pass a levy or are not able to refresh, maintain, or fund current technology.

**9. What is the projected statewide impact of Montana's public schools of the proposed resolution?**

School districts would be reassured that they have a basic allocation that they can count on in order to refresh and buy new or refurbished technology.

**10. Please provide any additional background, explanation or other context for the resolution that you would like to be considered during the deliberations of the Delegate Assembly.**

NA



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
Delegate Assembly 2016 Proposed New Resolutions

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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

Comment [KM7]: Clarification

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.

Comment [KM8]: Deleted by META

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.

Comment [KM9]: META is a part of SAM

Designation: Support

Submitted by Todd Lark on 4-29-16 for META

Supporting Information

Only 22 out of 496 districts (4.5%) are currently meeting the bandwidth recommendations of 1Mbps per student in Montana.



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**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.

**Designation: Support**

**Submitted by Todd Lark on 4-29-16 for META**

**Supporting Information**

**Training Model:**

- 2 members from each of the 9 META regions will be trained as 18 "regional" experts
- 2 Business Directors will also be trained as "regional" experts
- In Year One, we will follow a "Train the trainer" model to provide support to school districts across the state in the 9 META regions

**Budget:**

Travel, Lodging, Per Diem for \$20,000

Training Cost: FREE

In the past 18 years, Montana schools have received: **\$82,692,131.77**.

E-Rate funding started in 1998 and continues on today. The lowest funding year was 1988 with 224 applications totaling \$3,672,802.17.

In 1999, applications jumped to 307 totaling \$3,772,628.81. In the past decade, the state has averaged 330 applications per year. When funding for Category 2 services was adjusted in 2015, applications jumped up to 402, totaling **\$6,837,478.71**.



**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**  
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Training IT Directors and Business Directors allows Montana schools to make better decisions, providing local control of federal dollars to support Montana students.

A small committee of the trained IT Directors and Business Directors will collect data and present the results of this Year One plan to the legislature.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA
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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;

Comment [KM10]: More acceptable and understandable language

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

Submitted by Todd Lark on 4-29-16 for META

Supporting Information

MCA 20-9-533 Proposed Revisions

(6) In addition to the funds received pursuant to subsection (2), the trustees of a school district may submit a proposition to the qualified electors of the district to approve an additional levy to fund costs of providing the technologies included in subsection (1) the depreciation of technological equipment authorized under this section. The election must be called and conducted in the manner prescribed by this title for school elections and in the manner prescribed by 15-10-425. A technology levy authorization approved after [the effective date of this act] may not exceed 10 years.

(7) The technology proposition is approved if a majority of those electors voting at the election approve the levy. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the levy under subsection (6) is subject to 15-10-420.

(8) A district whose qualified electors have previously approved a technology levy of perpetual duration prior to [the effective date of this act] may submit a proposition to the qualified electors on or after [the effective date of this act] for an increase in the amount of the levy to cover the costs of providing technologies under subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c) or to seek relief from the obligation of tracking depreciation of equipment under a levy approved prior to [the effective date of this act]. In seeking approval of the



**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**

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~~proposition, the district shall specify a proposed revised duration of the underlying perpetual levy previously approved and a proposed duration for the proposed increase in the amount of the levy, neither of which may exceed 10 years. If the proposition is approved by the qualified electors, both the underlying levy previously approved for a perpetual duration and the increase in the amount of the levy are subject to the revised durational limit specified on the ballot.~~

Full bill : <http://goo.gl/OGtEfy>



**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**  
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## **MASS Caucus Proposal (change of designation)**

**Request to change designation of Resolution #01/09/10-09 STATEWIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL INSURANCE PROGRAM from Support to Action by Laurie Barron on 4-19-16 for MASS [Revision failed to pass the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee]**

### **Supporting Information**

#### **Resolution #01/09/10-09 - STATEWIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEE 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.

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

**This revision failed to pass the Delegate Assembly Steering Committee for lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion to approve.**





**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF MONTANA**  
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**Potential Resolution to address outlying elementary districts larger than High School Districts would be submitted by Kathy Pfister on unknown date for MCASE [Will not be submitted as a resolution in 2016]**

**Supporting Information**

MACSS,

This is an inquiry: Do any of you have Elementary Districts Larger than High School Districts. In other words, do you have an Elementary District that encompasses a high school district and portions of other high school districts. This results in overlapping districts, that were annexed separately, often years apart, with High School going one direction (usually first) and Elementary going another direction. At one time OPI said there were 7 of these. I am looking at trying to solve representation for taxation for the outlying elementary territory that was annexed. The outlying High School territory that was previously annexed to another district has an avenue for representation through 20-3-352, but the elementary does not.

With the split in direction of Elementary and High School districts that were at one time unified comes the issue of fair representation. The receiving Elementary can no longer have trustees at large because the district territory is no longer at large since the elementary territory is larger than the high school. The driving factor of this is that the high school portion of the annexed elementary district is an outlying high school district to a different district that generates a trustee to represent those taxpayers for high school only. And here in lies my issue, 20-3-352 does not allow for an outlying elementary trustee to the receiving elementary district for taxation representation. Each territory, whether outlying or unified should have equal representation on both Elementary and High School Boards, not just the high school. All of this would not be an issue if they annexed or consolidated to the same district, but code does not require it and taxpayers have a right to their vote and choice.

(Historically, when High School districts were established, they encompassed one or more elementary districts. I think the thought was that those elementary districts could or would eventually consolidate into the existing bigger high school district. With time, we have seen the opposite can happen and code just never addressed that.)

I'd like to submit a resolution to the SAM delegates for support. Ultimately, this needs legislated, but awareness and understanding need to come first. Please share with me your situations.

Kathy  
**Kathryn Pfister**  
**Musselshell County**  
**Office of Superintendent of Schools**

**Will not be submitted as a resolution in 2016**