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School Administrators of Montana BULLETIN

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Some Thoughts About Special Education

by Chris Bilant, MCASE President

The number of students identified with disabilities peaked nationally in 2004-05 and has been declining ever since. This overall trend shows fewer students with learning disabilities, cognitive delays, and emotional disturbances while the number students with autism, developmental delays, and other health impairments have increased. Montana's proportion of students with disabilities continues to hold at around 12%. In these last dozen years, however, special education expenditures account for a growing share of increasingly tight district budgets - while academic achievement and post-secondary outcomes continues to lag. How are districts spending their special education dollars? Does spending more translate to better results for our IEP students?

An increasing number of IEP students in Montana are served in general education settings, as special educators work collaboratively with their general education colleagues to ensure access to the general ed. curriculum. Special Education has moved from a pull out service delivery to increased inclusion...not without challenges, of course. Special education is expected to demonstrate greater quality and effectiveness by implementing evidenced-based practices/interventions and standard based IEPs. Additionally, special education is expected to demonstrate accountability on key performance indicators that support successful academic and post-high school outcomes.

To add teeth to this changing landscape, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in Washington D.C. has implemented Results-Driven Accountability (RDA), which formally holds state and local educators accountable to specific indicators that demonstrate improved outcomes. Consequently, special education is redefining, rethinking, redesigning and moving toward reinventing itself.

One example of this transformation is providing specially designed instruction within a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) framework. This framework impacts how we address the needs of struggling groups of students in the general education setting, including IEP students. Educators recognize and data shows that specially designed instruction within a MTSS framework addresses individual student academic and social/emotional needs - regardless of educational setting. The MTSS framework provides guidance on what this looks like, how best to implement, and data to demonstrate its efficacy.

continued on Page 2...

MCASE President's Message Continued...

Another example of special education redefining, rethinking, and redesigning itself is evident in the implementation of Evidenced-Based Practices/Interventions as well as Standards Based IEPs. Basing instruction and assessment on the Common Core supports the expectation of developing and implementing IEP goals and objectives that are aligned to these standards. Access to Montana's State Assessment for ELA and Mathematics holds both instruction and student achievement to a higher bar. Technology enters into this redesign of special education as well by augmenting individualized learning opportunities, supporting flexibility, and personalizing learning for both teachers and students.

Add this to the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act – Every Child Succeeds – and change is certain.

Improving academic achievement and post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities and holding special education accountable for improving performance indicators requires educators to transform how we do things for kids.

The Montana Association of School Superintendents has partnered again with Big Sky Fit Kids 2016-17. This will be the 8th year of the continued partnership and we look forward to helping create a healthier Montana for kids!



SAM Board of Directors & Membership - Making a Difference!

by Kirk Miller, SAM Executive Director

The first meeting of the SAM Board of Directors in 2016-17 happened during MCEL. The outstanding dialogue that is created when Montana's education leaders on the SAM Board convene is encouraging and provides great hope for the state of education in Montana. A review of the SAM Strategic Plan took place with adjustments to embolden the actions around the strategic objectives as the year continues – not just words, but true commitment to having SAM, as an organization, make a difference in supporting administrators and the work you do for students in our schools. My thanks to the SAM Board for their leadership and commitment to your professional association.



The SAM Business meeting on October 20 was a convening of the membership to consider changes to the SAM Bylaws; consider and approve the SAM Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions; and a discussion of the progress of our professional association over the past year. Once again, a great dialogue about the most important topics impacting the education of Montana children was the main focus of the meeting. Thanks to all who participated.

As a result of this work of the SAM Board and membership, I am bringing to your attention some key initiatives where SAM members' participation is, and will continue, making a difference in the education of students in our schools.

- Montana ESSA Stakeholder Council has 18 (of 38) SAM members engaging to make decisions on the Montana's comprehensive education plan under the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The impact of administrators serving on the Council was evident last week when several SAM Stakeholder Council members expressed concerns over the accountability portions of the ESSA Plan discussed during one of the three meetings of the Council. As a result, the OPI ESSA Team took action to convene the Stakeholder Council again on November 10 to consider the accountability portions of the Plan to ensure that Montana's Plan meets the needs to educate Montana's children in the best manner possible. Thank you SAM Stakeholder Council members for your representation of what is right for our students, and for perseverance in assuring that Montana has done our best work with this new law for students in our state.
- On October 18 in Missoula, the Montana education community had an opportunity to have a discussion with Senior Advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Education, Ruthanne Buck. A *View from Montana* event was sponsored by Senator Jon Tester and Superintendent Denise Juneau. SAM members were three of the six panelists who participated in a roundtable discussion on implementing ESSA, doing an outstanding job of describing for Dr. Buck, the flexibility that Montana seeks. Thanks to our panelists as well as many SAM members who attended the event and provided input.
- Educator recruitment and retention is a significant need in our state and has risen to the top as one of SAM's advocacy priorities. SAM members are participating in a variety of efforts of RISE4MT (MT-PEC and our University System working together to resolve educator recruitment and retention challenges while retaining quality that is the hallmark of Montana's education system). Another great supportive effort is underway -- MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force (Montana Board of Regents appointed task force to consider how the University System can assist with recruitment and retention of quality educators) seeking both short term and long term solutions for Montana schools. Collaboration, dialogue and cooperation across boundaries are what will make a difference in resolving educator recruitment and retention in Montana, and many SAM members are contributing to this work in a great way.

SAM Executive Director's Message Continued...

- Chapter 57 Educator Licensure flexibility review is a beginning step in the educator recruitment and retention effort. RISE4MT and MT-PEC have worked diligently to provide opportunities for flexibility in qualification for educator licenses (certification) in Montana so that our system is able to compete with other states who are experiencing shortages as well. Long story short, SAM has been at the table in crafting recommendations for consideration of changes to the administrative rules of Montana (ARM) in Chapter 57. One such change would allow 5 years of successful experience as teacher or administrator (as documented by supervisor recommendations outlining that success) to qualify for a license in Montana. If this flexibility becomes rule, it will increase the pool of available qualified candidates for positions as teachers and administrators, while leaving the flexibility of who to hire (and the qualifications that a district wishes to set for a position) up to the local school district. SAM has advocated for a more than a year on increasing flexibility in licensure to help our schools. The final hearing on these rules for flexibility will take place on November 9, 2016 and the Montana Board of Public Education intends to take action on recommended changes to Chapter 57 ARM at their meeting on November 17-18, 2016. Thanks to all of the SAM members who have provided input on increasing flexibility in licensing to increase the pool of quality candidates applying for jobs in our schools.
- Increasing broadband access for our schools continues to be an area where SAM members have contributed to the effort for meeting Internet access needs of Montana's students. Efforts like Education SuperHighway, and E-Rate consulting to increase schools' ability to have adequate broadband access to meet the learning needs of their students, now and in the future, are ongoing efforts of META and leadership of our SAM affiliates. Progress is being made and I'm thankful for the great work of our members to create focus and dialogue in this important area.
- Federal advocacy and federal funding plays a role in the ability of Montana to create the best environment for educating our students. Many SAM leaders have connected deeply with federal advocacy to insure our Montana Congressional delegation understands the needs of our schools and how the federal government can help, or in many cases, get out of the way, to let local school districts create and support the best environment for the students in their community. A big thanks for the many federal advocacy efforts.
- Action at SAM Business meeting has finalized SAM's advocacy priorities, positions, and resolutions just in time for the 65th Montana Legislative session! From the work of the SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee to the outstanding dialogue of the SAM Delegate Assembly, we have created a very sound, passionate, and easily supportable advocacy package. See the "SAM Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions 2016-17" on the www.sammt.org website under the 'Advocacy' tab and '2017 Legislative Session SAM Info' for a review of this great work. Preparations for the SAM Legislative Network to implement the advocacy package will begin following the November 8 election and SAM members will be called upon to assist in the advocacy for our students during the session. We know that our collective effort makes a difference on the important education issues that the legislature will contemplate.

Being a part of the School Administrators of Montana provides our members with a strong network of resources and communication, making our effort to help each Montana student receive the education they deserve so very powerful. Thank you SAM members for your collective efforts on all of these key areas!



SAM and AVID Partner to Help Deliver Results.



IMPACT

More students enroll in and persist in college!

AVID Works. How Do We Know This?

For over 35 years, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) has provided educators nationwide a proven solution for systematically increasing academic rigor and creating engaging learning environments, accelerating the performance of underrepresented students and delivering results schoolwide.

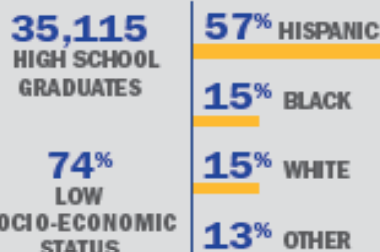
AVID Graduates:

Enroll in College at Higher Rates

AVID 2014 seniors outpaced the national average of enrolling in either a two- or four-year college the first fall term after high school¹. This success is remarkable considering AVID's population is largely comprised of students typically underrepresented in higher education.



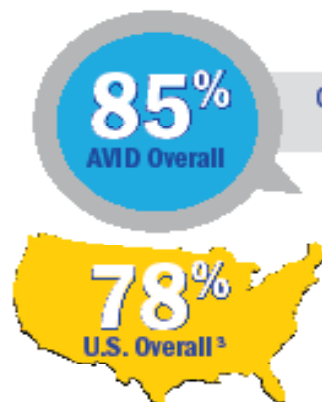
AVID Class of 2014



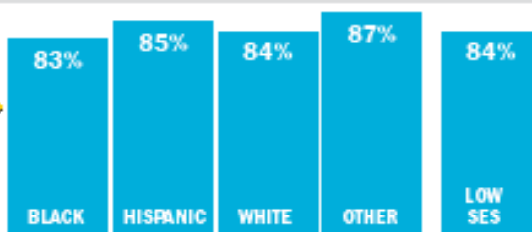
1. AVID Center (2014). AVID Senior Data Collection. U.S. Census Bureau (2014). Current Population Survey. Rate on Date of Enrollment. CPS-October 2014-October 2015. [Table 10, Table 7].

Persist Into Year 2 of College at Higher Rates

AVID graduates “stick with it”—applying the learning, study, and academic behavioral skills gained through AVID—to succeed in rigorous college coursework year after year.



College Persistence Into Year 2 by Student Group
(Fall-to-Fall Persistence Rate for AVID Class of 2014)²



AVID is closing the achievement gap with equitable persistence among diverse groups of college students.



2. AVID Center (2014). AVID Senior Data Collection. College persistence records provided by National Student Changeover (Electronic databases).
3. National Student Changeover Research Center (2013). Computer Report: First-Year Persistence and Retention Rates, Fall 2009–2014 Entering Cohorts.

Upcoming Awards from Your SAM Affiliates--Please Nominate/Apply!

by Pat Audet, SAM Associate Director

There are a few awards that are available now and will be coming available soon for nomination and application. Please check the SAM website and your SAM List-serve email for the call for nominations and applications of the following awards:

The following MAEMSP awards are now open for application and/or nomination:

MAEMSP – Friends of Education (Due Dec. 9)

This award is given to any person in the community who has gone above and beyond with duties that support and promote public education. The recipient of this award must be a private citizen that is outside the professional educational field.

MAEMSP – Adrian Langstaff Award (Due Dec. 9)

This award is one of the highest recognitions that the Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals can award to a deserving member. The award is in the name and memory of Adrian Langstaff. Adrian was an outstanding elementary principal who was a very recognized leader in his school, community and state. His life was cut short in a tragic accident.

MAEMSP – Aspiring Principal Scholarship Award (Due Dec. 9)

MAEMSP provides an annual Scholarship/Incentive Grant of \$800 to a student successfully applying to, or currently enrolled in, an approved course of study for the Master of Education Degree in Elementary School Education. The applicant must have completed three years of successful teaching in elementary or middle school education (K-8) and hold a current Montana Class II teaching certificate.

MAEMSP – Appreciation Award (Due Dec. 9)

This award is given to an individual, organization, or business that has provided outstanding support to any of the members of the Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals.

MAEMSP – 2016 National Conference Incentive Scholarship Award (Due Dec. 9)

MAEMSP National Convention Scholarship will provide the opportunity for one of its members to attend the National Association of Elementary School Principals Convention for professional learning, and receive the following:

- *Paid registration to the NAESP Convention;*
- *Round trip air fare to the site of the convention;*
- *A letter to the recipient's superintendent from MAEMSP President encouraging him/her to grant adequate release time and financial support for meals and room in the Montana room block.*



Associate Director's Message Continued...

MAEMSP – National Distinguished Principal (Opening in November – Coming Soon) *This prestigious award recognizes elementary and middle level principals who set the bar high for all aspects of excellence for student achievement, instruction, and climate within their school district and community.*

MCASE - Distinguished Service Awards (Coming Soon in November)

Each year, these awards are given to a special education director, a regular educator, and a special educator. Special education is a very trying but rewarding field. The Montana Council of Administrators of Special Education annually award those special education leaders, special educators, and classroom teachers that excel at their positions and deserve to be recognized for their efforts.

MASSP – NASSP Principal of the Year (Opening in January)

This award is given to a deserving individual who demonstrates outstanding leadership at the secondary level in providing high-quality education within their building. These principals are recognized by their peers for their contributions they have made to their students, staff and community in implementing educational excellence.

MASSP – Community Partner in Education Award (Opening in January)

The CPE Award is given to an individual who provides great support to public education and is always there to help out in any way possible for the good of the school and the students. The candidate must be a private citizen outside the professional educational field.

MASSP – Future Administrators Scholarship (Opening in January)

This award comes in the form of an \$1100 scholarship provided to a graduate student who is in at least their 2nd semester of an approved course of study for the Master of Education Degree in Secondary School Administration. The candidate cannot be financially supported by a school district and cannot be a double recipient of the MAEMSP and MASSP scholarships. Finally, the candidate must also intend to keep working in Montana.

META – Technologist of the Year Award (Opening in January)

More information will be provided soon about this upcoming, new award in the affiliate line-up.

School Administrators of Montana as well as the leadership of these affiliates would hope that nominations of deserving individuals will be made for each one of the above awards. Again, please go to the SAM website – www.sammt.org and click on any one of these affiliates to go to their perspective awards or links to award applications and read more about each award and qualifications. Notifications will be provided through the SAM list-serve emails also.





*Rigorous Learning For
All Students*



International Center for Leadership in Education

RIGOROUS LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS




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Professional Learning



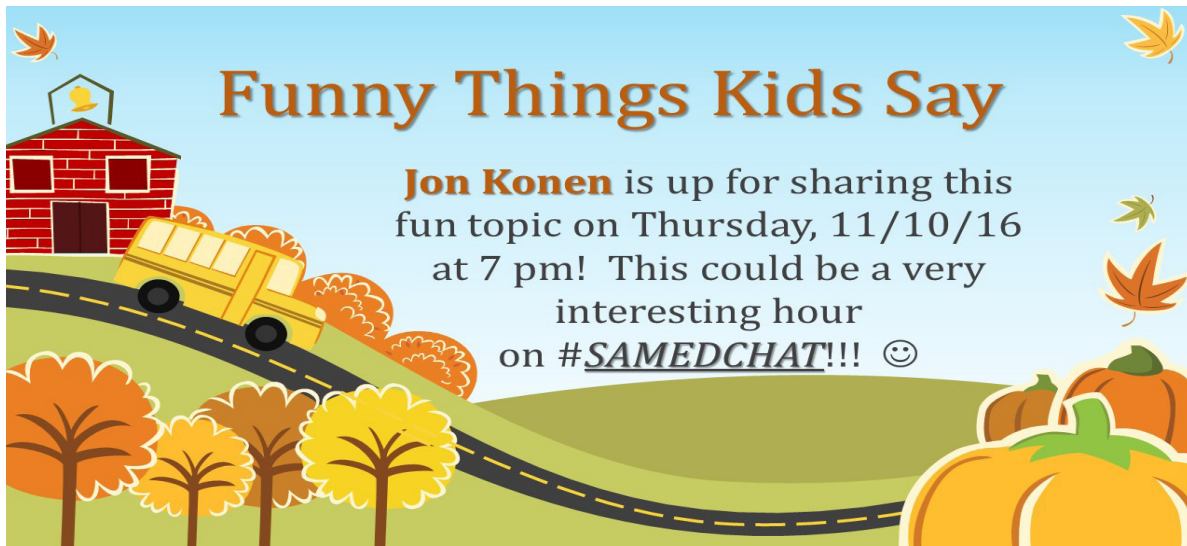
Technology Innovation

Upcoming #SAMedchat Events



**Walk Throughs,
Observations and
Evaluations**

JOIN **KELLY KINSEY** FOR #SAMEDCHAT
THIS THURSDAY, 11/3/16 AT 7:00 PM!



Funny Things Kids Say

Jon Konen is up for sharing this fun topic on Thursday, 11/10/16 at 7 pm! This could be a very interesting hour on #SAMEDCHAT!!! 😊



**Celebrating
Diversity**

Join **Adrian Advincula** for a topic that will be sure to stimulate wonderful discussion! He will be at the helm of #samedchat on Thursday, November 17, 2016! Join him!

November 24 - NO #SAMEDCHAT - THANKSGIVING

MCEL AWARDS

GV Erickson Award



The School Administrators of Montana (SAM) is proud to announce the 2016 G.V. Erickson Award recipient, Dr. Rob Watson, Superintendent of Bozeman Public Schools. Dr. Watson was awarded this distinguished honor at the annual Montana Conference of Education Leadership (MCEL) held in Billings October 19 – 21. The G.V. Erickson award is given to a member of SAM who has made the greatest contribution to the betterment of education in Montana. This is the most prestigious award a school administrator of Montana can receive. The award is named after Mr. G.V. Erickson, a school administrator who dedicated his career and life to education and the children of Montana. The G. V. Erickson award recipients have been honored for over 30 years.

Dr. Rob Watson began his career in education in 1993 as a math and science teacher. He became a school administrator in 2001 and has been in his current superintendent of Bozeman School District 7 position since 2012. He has served on several boards in support of education such as the treasurer and delegate assembly representative of the Montana Association of School Administrators (MASS) 4 Rivers Region, the lead evaluator for AA schools on the AdvancED Accreditation State Council, member of the Montana Board of Public Education Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council, member of the Montana Association of Secondary School Principals, and a board member of Montana ASCD.

Dr. Watson served as one of eight secondary school principals from around the United States with the task to develop comprehensive guidelines for effective principal evaluations and participated in the inaugural cohort of the AASA National Superintendent Certification Program focusing on a professional development initiative. He served as one of ten superintendents from around the United States on the Common Sense on the Common Core Practitioner Think Tank committee to discuss ways to improve collaboration between secondary and post-secondary institutions. He also serves as the sole administrator representative on the Montana Board of Public Education, Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council tasked with making recommendations to the Board of Public Education on certification issues concerning teachers, administrators and specialists; professional standards and ethical conduct; the status and efficacy of approved educator preparation programs in Montana; and policies related to the educator certification process.

The G. V. Erickson Award was presented by Paul Furthmyre, Principal of East Middle School in Great Falls and President of SAM. SAM congratulates Dr. Rob Watson on being honored with this prestigious award.

MCEL AWARDS

Superintendent of the Year

Tobin Novasio, Superintendent of Lockwood Schools, was selected as the 2016 Superintendent of the Year for Montana and honored at the annual Montana Conference of Education Leadership (MCEL) held in Billings October 19 – 21. The award is sponsored by the Montana Association of School Superintendents (MASS).

Mr. Novasio has been a school administrator for 15 years and a superintendent in Montana since 2005. He currently serves as the MASS President-Elect and as a delegate to the 2016 School Administrator of Montana (SAM) Delegate Assembly. His district has witnessed substantial educational growth over the past three years due in part to the implementation of an after school program and an expanded gifted program, providing intervention kindergarten to targeted 4 year olds, application of a behavioral analysis room, and implementation of a breakfast in the classroom program.

With funding being a continuous concern, Mr. Novasio has implemented an Educator for a Day program which provides an opportunity for trustees to address taxpayers' questions and keep the lines of communication open. He believes that effective communication is accomplished by consistently sending the same message while using different formats. He also focuses on communication and relationship building between the administrative team and teaching staff.

The Montana Association of School Superintendents (MASS), in collaboration with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA), annually recognizes and rewards the outstanding leadership of school superintendents. This program seeks to honor those strong Montana school district leaders who work successfully with their entire learning communities to provide the highest quality education that is possible.

Now in its 29th year, the National Superintendent of the Year program, sponsored by ARAMARK Education, VALIC and AASA, pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead the nation's public schools. Mr. Novasio is eligible for the National Superintendent of the Year Award and will be honored at the AASA Convention in New Orleans in March.

SAM congratulates Mr. Tobin Novasio for being awarded this prestigious honor.



MCEL AWARDS

Jay Erdie Memorial Mentor Scholarship



Mr. Dan Rispens of East Helena Public Schools was selected as the recipient of the Jay Erdie Memorial Mentor Scholarship at the annual Montana Conference of Education Leadership (MCEL) held in Billings October 19 -21. The award is sponsored by School Administrators of Montana (SAM), Montana Unified School Trust (MUST) and the Erdie family.

The Jay Erdie Memorial Mentor Scholarship is provided to an administration candidate who plans to begin and/or complete his/her administrative credentials and intends to work as a school administrator in Montana. The award is named after Dr. John Jay

Erdie, who was a Montana School Superintendent well known for his efforts in mentoring promising educators into becoming school administrators.

As the recipient of the award, Mr. Rispens will receive a \$1000 scholarship to assist in completing his superintendent preparation program and will participate as a protégé in the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program, where he will work with a highly qualified mentor when he is employed as a superintendent in a Montana school district.

Mr. Rispens has 22 years of experience as an educator at the high school level in Montana, as well as experience as an athletic director, vice principal and principal. He has a passion for fostering situations within schools and communities in which students have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential and that a superintendent endorsement will create yet another avenue for him to work toward his vision of impacting the lives of potentially thousands of Montana children and their families.

Jay Erdie's wife, Karen, their daughters Jennifer Hickok and Kristie Williams, and granddaughter Sara were in attendance to present the scholarship to Mr. Rispens.

SAM congratulates Mr. Dan Rispens on receiving this scholarship to assist him in completing his superintendent certification and continue to have a positive impact on Montana children.

MCEL AWARDS

MASS School Board of the Year: Frenchtown Public Schools

This award honors the dedicated and ethical service rendered by school boards to the children of Montana and recognizes accomplishments of school boards in the areas of board policy, infrastructure for learning and teaching, and innovative educational programs. MASS selects two outstanding school boards annually that represent excellence in these areas.

The Frenchtown School Board, nominated by their Superintendent Randy Cline, has made great progress on all three of the criteria areas of this award. The board has created a “Five year Planning Horizon” with outcome-oriented goals and strategic objectives to assist in guiding the district to achievement goals identified in areas of educational fidelity and purpose, technology, safety, facilities, wellness and community engagement.



The Trustees have been instrumental in updating and remodeling school facilities to enhance the learning environment for students. Projects such as the three phase outdoor facility improvement plan, the completion of a 1.24-mile trail that allows students to walk and bike to school safely, and securing a grant for a Solar PV system from Solar 4R Schools which aims to inspire a new generation of clean energy leaders and a partnership with Missoula Electric Company allowing solar units to be placed on rooftops at the elementary campus all support the Boards vision in an effort to enhance student learning.

The Frenchtown School Board’s focus on improving educational programs has included implementation of a transitional kindergarten curriculum, an elementary after school program, a backpack program to provide food for students, a K-6 art program and intermediate level LEGO Robotics teams.

Members of the Frenchtown School Board of Trustees include:

Chair – Debbie Lester

Vice Chair – David Weber

Members: Jamie Romney Fitzgerald, Teresa Teagle, Evan Jordan, Kayla Johnson and Peter Simonich

Superintendent: Randy Cline

MCEL AWARDS

MASS School Board of the Year: East Helena Public Schools

This award honors the dedicated and ethical service rendered by school boards to the children of Montana and recognizes accomplishments of school boards in the areas of board policy, infrastructure for learning and teaching, and innovative educational programs. MASS selects two outstanding school boards annually that represent excellence in these areas.



The trustees of the East Helena Public Schools Board have created a unified effort to serve each child in the district while blending the unique individualism that the members bring in service to their community. Together they have served the East Helena community for over 70 years collectively, with the each member having served a minimum of two terms.

The board, nominated by Superintendent Ron Whitmoyer, has made great progress with facilities, grounds and infrastructure, making future expansion a reality. They have served to embrace all areas of their facility responsibilities not only with grants, but with fiscally responsible spending.

The East Helena School Board has also made great advancements in innovative, educational programs such as: establishing a 5 year rotation of computers and a highly sought after computer network, committing to make the district a 1:1 electronic device K-8 school district, creating and maintaining a 21st Century After School Program which has provided tremendous academic and personal success for students, and approving the hiring of “Governor”, a facility dog to assist children in delivering comfort, learning assistance and therapy .

The East Helena Trustees have worked tirelessly in an effort to represent the desires and needs of their community by exploring local control through a vote of their taxpayers to decide how to organize their school district in the future.

Members of the East Helena Board of Trustees include:

Chair – Scott Walter

Vice Chair – Breck Scheet

Board Members: Kevin Bokovoy, Mark Diehl, Marcia Ellermeyer, Joe Nye and Ann Marie Thompson

Superintendent: Ron Whitmoyer

SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2016-17



School Administrators of Montana is proud to offer innovative professional learning opportunities to district and school leaders across Montana. A combination of the SAM Mentor Program and the SAM 21st Century Leadership Institute (21 CLI), the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program (LPLP) is unlike any program available today. In our 4th year, the LPLP provides a unique opportunity for those who register for the program(s) to receive **one-on-one coaching/mentoring** and **innovative, student learning focused, blended professional learning opportunities** while working with experienced, highly qualified Montana administrators (mentor/coaches called Providers) in each of the 9 MASS region areas of the state.

SAM Mentor Program

Helping School leaders succeed...

The SAM Mentor Program uses trained, effective, recently retired and practicing administrators from each of the Superintendent Regions in Montana. Using a regional model allows SAM to take advantage of the knowledge and experience these leaders possess regarding the culture and values of the communities in their region. Understanding the culture and values of a community is key to the success of a school or district leader.

KEY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- ✓ Trained mentors who are respected and successful in the field of educational leadership
- ✓ Mentors who are current and up to date on today's education issues and research
- ✓ Supported by the Montana University System, OPI and Private Business
- ✓ Online networking and webinars through the Resource Center at sammt.org
- ✓ One-on-one support
- ✓ Mentoring specific to the needs of the mentee
- ✓ On-site visits based on mutual agreement between mentor and mentee
- ✓ Confidentiality - what is discussed in mentoring stays in mentoring
- ✓ Renewal units through OPI

21st Century Leadership Institute

Montana takes the lead . . .

SAM 21 CLI is a unique approach to professional learning and school improvement, incorporating all the critical elements of what we know is exemplary practice in professional learning.

What is Profound Professional Learning?

Professional Development measured in terms of impact on STUDENT LEARNING!

- Learn by Doing - Connect your PD to your everyday work and professional goals and growth plans
- Individualize, Personalized and Differentiated - Utilize a powerful ONLINE 21st Century Professional Learning Center with teaching modules and a wealth of resources: hundreds of books, articles, videos and more
- Learning Teams - Participate in teams with opportunities for networking, collegiality
- Learning Cycles - Designed to provide a framework for continuous collegial dialog with a well-organized, user-friendly interface and methodology
- Coaching & Mentoring - A critical element of professional learning that includes guided practice with available providers that are experienced and adept in educational processes
- High Impact - Achieve measureable improvement in student learning

Learn more about the SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program by visiting 'www.sammt.org' then, under Accouncements click 'SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program 2016-17'

Montana Big Sky Sponsors

Health Insurance

P O Box 4579 - Helena, MT 59601

Email: dbarrett@ms-sf.org

Phone: 406-457-4400



Technology Innovation

1309 NW Bypass - Great Falls, MT 59404

Email: bruce.wallace@vision.net

Phone: 406-727-5994

Rigorous Learning For All Students

1587 Route 146 - Rexford, NY 12148

Email: STraub@leadered.com

Phone: 518-399-2776



RIGOROUS LEARNING FOR ALL STUDENTS



Professional Learning Organization

1031 N. Academic Way, Ste. 242

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

Email: hr Rogers@ncce.org

Phone: 208-292-2529

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Email: pweyandt@Schoolwires.com
Phone: 814-689-1046 Ext. 304



Silverback
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Phone: 208-481-2300

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Email: john.wing@valic.com
Phone: 406-329-5500

Four levels of sponsorship are available to our business partners:

- Montana Big Sky*
- Montana Glacier*
- Montana Mountain*
- Montana Meadow*

If you'd like to learn more about the benefits of partnering with SAM, contact Operations Manager Gary Wagner at samgw@sammt.org or 406-442-2510.

Montana Mountain Sponsor



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Phone: 800-862-7183



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Phone: 651-213-4068



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Auto, homeowners, life insurance and financial services
617 W Stolley Park Road, Grand Island, NE 68801
Email: keith.jorgensen@horacemann.com
Phone: 866-517-6870



A leading provider of comprehensive Custodial, Grounds & Facility Operations and Maintenance services
4702 Western Ave. Suite 101--Knoxville, TN 37921
gcaeducation@gcaservices.com
888-736-0863



Safe, Easily Managed School Networks
106 East Sixth Street, Suite 500, Austin TX 48701
rick.berger@lightspeed-tek.com
800-732-8999



School Workers' Compensation & Property/Liability Coverage
PO Box 7029 - Helena, MT 59604
Email: sbubb@mtsba.org
Phone: 406-457-4418

Montana Mountain Sponsor



Education's Premiere Recruitment Service
 PO Box 2519
 Columbia, MD 21045
 Email: llayton@teachers-teachers.com
 Phone: 877-812-4071 x94



Technology planning, project & solution services
 2135 Charlotte Street, Suite 2
 Bozeman MT 59718
 406-294-5478
 bbassett@pinecc.com

Montana Meadow Sponsor



Black Mountain Software
School Accounting Software
 145 Southlake Crest, Suite 1, Polson, MT 59860
 Email: sales@blackmountainsoftware.com
 Phone: 800-353-8829



Technology Services Partner
 16 6th Street North, Ste 42
 Email: jeffp@schoolhouseit.com
 Phone: 406-235-7020



School property & liability insurance
 1200 North Montana Ave. Helena. MT 59601
 Email: dpillatzke@paynewest.com
 Phone: 406-457-4531

Upcoming 2016-17 Conferences & Meetings

2017

January	25-27	MAEMSP Winter Conference	Great Falls
February	14-16	MACSS Conference	Helena
	15	MCEC Conference	Missoula
March	13-14	Day of Advocacy/MASS Spring Conference	Helena
	14-15	METAtechED Conference	Helena
April	6-7	MASSP Spring Conference	Helena
June	14	DaRud Cup Golf Tourney	Helena
	15	SAM Evening of Excellence	Helena
	15-16	SAM Delegate Assembly	Helena
July/Aug	31-3	SAM Administrators Institute	Helena