

**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA**

**Denise Juneau
Superintendent**



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March 7, 2016

Representative Donald Jones, Chair
Education and Local Government Committee
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Representative Jones,

I am pleased to submit two economic impact statements to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee in advance of your upcoming committee meeting on April 6-7, 2016. These statements provide an analysis of the costs associated with the proposed revisions to the Health and Physical Education standards and Arts standards, which have been developed through a negotiated rulemaking process as required by 20-7-101, MCA.

The Board of Public Education will consider these proposed revisions to the accreditation standards at its meeting on March 17-18. We expect that the Board will proceed with its notice of proposed rulemaking in May with a plan for adoption of the revised standards in July, with a delayed effective date of July 1, 2017.

As part of the process, the Education and Local Government Interim Committee must receive the economic impact statement for review at least one month in advance of a scheduled committee meeting. Section 20-7-101(4), MCA states that "Unless the expenditures by school districts required under the proposal are determined by the committee to be insubstantial expenditures that can be readily absorbed into the budgets of existing district programs, the board may not implement the standard until July 1 following the next regular legislative session and shall request that the same legislature fund implementation of the proposed standard."

My staff will be presenting these economic impact statements to the Education and Local Government committee in April. They will also describe the negotiated rulemaking process and answer any questions that committee members have about the process or the conclusions. Members of the rulemaking committees will be present to address the committee and to respond to questions.

The negotiated rulemaking making process has been a new experience for my agency and for the stakeholder groups. I believe that while the process is time-consuming, the consensus-building nature of the work was very effective.

Thank you in advance for your work in moving this process forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Juneau".

Denise Juneau
Superintendent of Public Instruction