



Education and Local Government Interim Committee

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60th Montana Legislature

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Staff Report on ELG Project Request of “Shared Policy Goals” Across All Education (K-12 and Postsecondary)

June 12, 2008

At the March meeting of the ELG, the committee charged staff with reporting back to the committee and Chairman Laible with ideas on a process that would lead to a deliverable document that would be a set of shared policy goals by and among the following institutions:

- The legislature
- The Board of Public Education (BPE)
- The Board of Regents (BOR) and their staff (OCHE)
- The K-12 public school system (OPI)

It is also envisioned that the executive would be part of this process with a role in the deliverable document of larger shared policy goals.

This initiative project was proposed by Rep. Lake based upon his experience with the PEPB and the non-binding shared policy goals that PEPB has created between the legislature and the BOR as the basis for budgeting and accountability related to the state budget. Within the PEPB meeting, the idea for a larger set of shared policy goals involving the four institutions listed above was raised in discussions of policy goals that cut across the domain of higher education and K-12 education; e.g. the issue of remedial/developmental education and the goal to reduce the number of Montana high school graduates who are enrolled in these courses in the Montana University System.

Although this specific issue is what pushed the project forward, the larger shared policy goals project of ELG is intended to address a broad range of policy issues, not just this single topic. In addition, the intent would be the creation of a seamless transition from K-12 to higher education, as completion of high school should not be the end of one system, but rather the middle of continuing education

Legislative staff met on Thursday, March 20th to discuss this project and develop a staff recommendation for Chairman Laible to consider for the June ELG meeting.

After discussing the history of the PEPB process that culminated in their shared policy goals document, the model for this ELG process, staff segmented the project into two components, the process deliverable and the product deliverable. The staff recommendation for “product deliverable” expands upon the original ELG charge by proposing a third set of shared policy goals that would focus solely on K-12 public education, as a parallel to the PEPB shared policy goals that focus solely on higher education. Given the history and value of the PEPB shared policy goals and process, staff believes that this additional deliverable would help to facilitate and add value to the original ELG charge.

Product Deliverable

That during the 2009-2010 interim of the legislature, there will be developed one joint-document of “larger shared policy goals” that is comprised of the following three components:

- Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures for the Montana University System, signed by the Board of Regents and the legislature [no change to this document or process]
- Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures for the K-12 Public Education System, signed by the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction, and the legislature [additional document recommended by staff]
- Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures for Public Education from Kindergarten through Graduate School, signed by the BOR, the BPE, OPI, and the legislature

These three components will address a broad range of education policies and be organized in a way that recognizes a distinct set of policy goals for both higher education and for K-12 that will merge into a joint set of policy goals that involve all institutions.

Process Deliverable

1. **Short-term Process:** That during the June meeting of the ELG, there will be scheduled a joint meeting of the PEPB and K-12 subcommittees with the agenda to include:
 - A *brief* staff report on the history of the PEPB shared policy goals and a review of the staff recommendation for this ELG project
 - A *brief* report from the existing Kindergarten through College working group to address their work plan, composition, and process
 - A discussion of this ELG staff proposal for a larger set of shared policy goals with the objective of:
 - a. Identifying a draft idea of the common issues between higher education and K-12 that could benefit from a larger set of shared policy goals
 - b. Discussing the concept of creating the interim body and process that could achieve the “product deliverable” documents identified above
 - That the report on this project at the ELG meeting include a discussion of the history and rationale for having education joined with local government as an interim committee
2. **Longer-term Process:** That the ELG develop a recommendation in the form of a bill draft (for the September meeting) to restructure the interim legislative committees in some manner such as the following:
 - An interim Committee on Education be created, separate from Local Government, that is comprised of 8 legislators appointed in accordance with legislative interim committee rules
 - The interim Committee on Education is charged with appointing two subcommittees for:
 - Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget (PEPB)
 - K-12 Public Education Policy and Budget (KPEPB)
 - That these subcommittees shall include appointed members from the BOR, BPE, the Superintendent of Public Schools, the Commissioner of Higher Education, and an executive staff designee by the Governor
 - The interim Committee on Education is charged with, among other duties, creating a larger set of shared policy goals for education that involves all of these institutions

This legislative staff report is intended to provide a process that leads to the outcome discussed at the March ELG meeting.

Issues to continue to address:

- How to structure the proposed interim Education Committee so that an efficient meetings schedule could be achieved that involves subcommittees with members from multiple institutions

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