EDUCATION & LOCAL GOV'T
June 13, 2011
Room 102, Capitol Bldg., Helena
EXHIBIT 2

Education and Local Government Interim Committee

61st Montana Legislature

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SHARED POLICY GOALS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR THE K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM 2013 BIENNIUM

This document on shared policy goals and accountability measures represents a merging of the following efforts that have involved leaders from the legislature, the executive and the K-12 public education system during the 2011 interim:

- Board of Public Education strategic goals and objectives
- Superintendent of Public Instruction strategic goals and objectives
- Shared policy goals and accountability measures development by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee (ELG) Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals

The documentation for these efforts provides important background, history and context for these shared policy goals and accountability measures, in particular the shared commitments to prepare students for success in the 21st century, to improve teaching and student learning, to improve student achievement in struggling schools, and to increase public awareness and engagement in the K-12 educational system.

This document is nonbinding. The ELG shall review, update, approve, and renew this understanding each biennium with the Board of Public Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction so that it may become the basis of state public policy in regard to the K-12 education system.

As a statement of public policy goals for public education in Montana, this document reflects the ELG's commitment to a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools such that funding high quality education is a critical goal of the State of Montana. This document, in conjunction with the definition of a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools established in section 20-9-309, MCA, will provide the policy direction needed to maintain a free quality elementary and secondary education system in Montana.

The authors of this document urge that it, along with 20-9-309, MCA, be used by the legislature in the 2011 legislative session to frame education budget initiatives and other policy recommendations for the 2013 biennium.

K-12 Shared Policy Goals, Objectives, and Accountability Measures
2013 Biennium

Shared Policy Goal	Objectives	Accountability Measures
1. Prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st century global society.	1.1. Increase Montana's high school graduation rate.	By June 30, 2013, increase by 2 percent the number of students who graduate in 4 years with a regular high school diploma.
	1.2. Review the ARM rules that govern accreditation, certification, and professional educator preparation programs on a regular cycle.	By June 30, 2013, increase by 2 percent the number of schools meeting regular accreditation standards using 2011/2012 school year as a baseline.
2. Improve teaching and student learning by promoting data-driven policy decisions and increasing access to educational information.	2.1. Develop a statewide longitudinal data system to collect and report reliable and timely data on Montana K-12 students.	By June 30, 2013, the K-12 education data warehouse will be established as the single source of information for reporting and analysis of K-12 student level data collected by the OPI as measured by the number of reports produced from the data warehouse.
	2.2. Improve access to K-12 education data by educators, policymakers, and the public.	By June 30, 2013, educators, policymakers, and the public will have access to data in the data warehouse through standardized reports and ad hoc query tools in accordance with the access rights established for the individual accessing the data as measured by the number of categories of users.
3. Improve student achievement in struggling schools.	3.1. Provide learning supports and promote greater community engagement to increase greater student achievement in schools identified as struggling.	The number of schools served by the Statewide System of Support that show an increase in student achievement as measured by the statewide student assessment (criterion-referenced test) using the 2009-10 school year as a baseline.
4. Increase public awareness of and engagement in the K-12 educational system recognizing the roles and responsibilities of the state and local educational agencies and the legislature.	4.1. Promote coordination and collaboration among the legislature and K-12 education agencies recognizing the constitutional roles of the Board of Public Education, Montana Legislature and local school districts.	Progress shall be measured by continuous improvement in attaining the identified accountability measures in the K-12 education shared policy goal agreement.

K-12 SHARED POLICY GOALS

WHEREAS, Article VIII, section 12, of the Montana Constitution vests in the Legislature the responsibility to ensure strict accountability of all revenue received and spent by the state, counties, cities, and towns and all other local governmental entities, and Article X, section 1, requires the Legislature to fund and distribute in an equitable manner to the school districts the state's share of the cost of the basic elementary and secondary school system; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 9, of the Montana Constitution vests in the Board of Public Education the general supervision of the public school system; and

WHEREAS, section 20-3-106, MCA, grants supervision over certain aspects of the public schools and districts of the state to the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 8, of the Montana Constitution states that the elected board of trustees in each school district shall exercise supervision and control of schools in the district; and

WHEREAS, agencies of the education community have increasingly, and to positive effect, shared leadership between themselves and with the Education and Local Government Interim Committee; and

WHEREAS, an understanding of shared policy goals and accountability measures for the K-12 public education system, shared by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Board of Public Education, and Education and Local Government Interim Committee, represents an important advance in interagency cooperation and the quality of education policymaking; and

WHEREAS, shared policy goals must be systematically tied to accountability measures in order to ensure timely and effective implementation of policies; and

WHEREAS, the Education and Local Government Interim Committee Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures, comprised of four legislators and education agency partners, with representatives from the Board of Public Education and the Office of Public Instruction, has identified statewide public elementary and secondary education policy goals and accountability measures for the K-12 public education system, in collaboration with the education agency partners;

This UNDERSTANDING crafted by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Board of Public Education, identifies the statewide public elementary and secondary education policy goals and related accountability measures (see pages 1-2 above) that will be used as a policy goal setting and assessment tool for policymakers, the K-12 education system, and the public in evaluating the achievement of the policy goals; and that will be used, in conjunction with 20-9-309, MCA, as a guide to drive

decision packages and funding mechanisms for the state funding that is appropriated to the K-12 education system by the Montana State Legislature.

Furthermore:

1. The K-12 education system shall prepare a Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures Report presenting appropriate and current data for these goals and accountability measure in an easy-to-read format.
2. This report shall be presented to the House and Senate Education Committees and the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education by the 10th legislative day of the 62st Legislature (2011 legislative session).
3. This report shall be posted to the Board of Public Education, Office of Public Instruction, and Education and Local Government Interim Committee websites by January 1 each odd numbered year.

The signatures below denote that the signatories fully participated in and support the shared policy goals and accountability measures cited herein.
This document expires June 30, 2013.
Dated this 17th day of August 2010.

X Wanda Grinde
Representative Wanda Grinde, Chair
Education and Local Government Committee

X Patty Myers
Patty Myers, Chair
Board of Public Education

X Kelly Gebhardt
Senator Kelly Gebhardt, Vice Chair
Education and Local Government Committee

X
Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Office of Public Education

X
Representative Bob Lake, Chair
ELG Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals