Office of Public Instruction

Bill Drafting Requests tied to K-12 Shared Policy Goals

Superintendent of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education, and Montana Legislature

Goal Statement

Prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st century global society.

1) Increase K-12 BASE Aid
This proposal is to increase the basic and per ANB entitlements by 0.89% in FY 2014 and by 2.3% in FY 2015 and to provide the basic entitlement to each school rather than each school district.

2) Increase reimbursement rates for pupil transportation
This proposal is to amend 20-10-141 and 142, MCA to increase the statutory mileage reimbursement rates for school buses and individual transportation contracts. This bill draft request will coordinate with OPI's budget request to increase state transportation reimbursements by $9 million annually using the general fund savings from the 2011 legislature's reallocation of oil and natural gas production taxes to the guarantee account.

Objective 1.1: Increase Montana's high school graduation rate.

3) Raise legal dropout age to 18 or upon graduation
This proposal is to raise the legal dropout age. The legislation will require students to attend school until the earlier of 18 years of age, upon high school graduation, or upon satisfaction of the requirements for equivalency of completion of secondary education. The proposal provides an exception from compulsory enrollment for a student who is at least 16 years of age, has withdrawn from school, and has enrolled in an adult basic education program, the Montana Youth Challenge program, a Montana job corps program, an accredited post-secondary program, or a registered apprenticeship program.

4) Revise funding allocations for Career and Vocational/Technical Education
This proposal is to change the allocation of state funding for K-12 career and vocational/technical education programs to provide more resources to support approved career and technical student organizations and expand their mission to reach more students to increase graduation rates.

5) Provide ANB funding for 19 year olds
This proposal is to include 19 year olds in the school district enrollment used for determining the district's average number belonging (ANB). This proposal will provide resources and incentives to school districts to keep students in school until the student can meet graduation requirements.

6) Provide scholarships for early graduates from high school
This proposal is to provide "early college" scholarships to Montana students who graduate early from public high school. The scholarship would be used at a Montana public college or university.

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Objective 1.2: Review the ARM Rules that govern accreditation, certification, and professional educator preparation programs on a regular cycle.

7) Fund educator preparation program reviews by increasing educator license fees

This proposal is to increase the annual licensure fee for educators from $6/year to $11/year. The increased revenue will be used to fund the review of educator preparation programs at nine postsecondary institutions in Montana.

Clarifications and Clean-up

8) Clarify the difference between a student's permanent education record and other student information

This proposal is to clarify which information must remain in a student's permanent record (as required by the Board of Public Education) and which information is subject to state record retention laws.

9) School Finance clean up legislation

This bill draft request is a placeholder for legislation to coordinate and "clean-up" sections of Title 20, MCA that raise problems for the implementation of school finance laws.