

Education and Local Government Interim Committee 2013-2014 Interim Work Plan

(established by general agreement of the committee at the Sept. 2013 meeting)

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This document summarizes the approach the Education and Local Government Interim Committee (ELG) will take in fulfilling its duties over the 2013-2014 interim. It was developed following the committee's June 2013 organizational meeting in which members of the committee provided input as to their priorities and desired methodologies. This work plan is organized by statutory duties, the committee's assigned study, and the additional topics the committee decided to explore. A table with meeting dates and tentative agenda items follows. It should be noted that the committee retains the authority to adjust this work plan as it deems necessary to address emerging issues and to follow-up on issues in greater depth.

I. Section 5-5-215, MCA: Duties Common to All Committees

A number of statutory duties are common to all interim committees. These are found in [Section 5-5-215, MCA](#).

The committee will fulfill its duties related to 5-5-215, MCA, by:

1. having legal staff provide an administrative rule report at every ELG meeting;
2. conducting its assigned interim study as described later in this document;
3. monitoring agency operations by:
 - a. encouraging members to attend meetings of the Board of Regents, Board of Education, and Board of Public Education when convenient for their schedule and location, and
 - b. receiving regular updates from OCHE, BPE, and OPI at committee meetings to be followed by questions from the committee;
4. having staff provide brief summaries of relevant advisory councils and required reports, and determining whether any councils or reports require further investigation;
5. reviewing any agency proposed legislation; and
6. determining whether any committee-sponsored legislation is necessary to benefit the people of Montana.

II. Section 5-5-224, MCA: ELG Enabling Statute

[Section 5-5-224, MCA](#), provides ELG's specific statutory duties, which fall into three primary categories: local government relations; general state administration of education; and postsecondary education.

The committee will fulfill its duties related to 5-5-224, MCA, by:

1. providing a venue for assigned agencies, entities, local governments, and the public to provide input and make recommendations on ways in which the Legislature might improve the effectiveness of state systems of education and local governing bodies; and
2. Monitoring MUS efforts related to college completion, credit transferability, and performance funding.

III. Other statutory duties

The committee will fulfill its duties related to [20-7-101, MCA](#), by:

1. reviewing the process for adoption or amendment of accreditation standards, examining how effective this process has been in regard to the adoption of the Montana Common Core Standards, and considering whether and how the process might be improved; and
2. requesting a fiscal analysis be conducted by LFD for any proposed adoption or amendment of any accreditation standard in order to determine whether a substantial fiscal impact will result from implementation of the standard.

The committee will fulfill its duties related to [20-9-161, MCA](#), by hearing reports from any school districts that adopt budget amendments exceeding 10% of the district's adopted budget.

The committee will fulfill its duties related to [22-3-423, MCA](#), by hearing the report of the Historic Preservation Officer at the committee's September 2014 meeting.

The committee will fulfill its duties related to [82-2-701, MCA](#), by having the director of the Bureau of Mines and Geology present to the committee on the applicability and utility of the Sand and Gravel Deposit Program.

The committee will fulfill its duties related to [20-1-231, MCA](#), by hearing the required report regarding the state's participation in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children at its June 2014 meeting.

IV. Assigned study House Joint Resolution No. 2 (HJR 2)

The committee will fulfill its duties related to [HJR 2](#) by:

1. reviewing the work of the Select Committee on Efficiency in Government related to Electronic Records Management, and reviewing relevant statutes;
2. hearing a panel presentation from subject matter experts to gain familiarity with Electronic Records Management;
3. directing staff to coordinate a work group of representatives of statutorily designated agencies and entities, including the Office of the Secretary of State, the State Information Technology Services Division, the Montana Historical Society/State Archivist, the State and Local Government Records Committees, and other interested parties collaborating to address the goals of HJR 2;
4. monitoring the progress of the work group by receiving progress reports from the work group at every ELG meeting;
5. considering the findings and recommendations of the work group, including any recommendations for proposed legislation, at the June 2014 ELG meeting; and
6. requesting the drafting of any proposed legislation the committee desires and producing a final report to present to the 64th Legislature.

V. Additional topics within ELG's subject area jurisdiction

The committee determined to address the following additional EDUCATION topics:

1. the changes regarding high school equivalency testing by having OPI present information on these changes and respond to committee questions;
2. the progress of the new K-12 Data Task Force by having OPI provide an update at the committee's September 2013 meeting and hearing a report from the K-12 Data Task Force at the committee's June 2014 meeting;

3. the recommendations of the performance audit on School Transportation Funding and Safety conducted Legislative Audit Division by hearing a summary of the report;
4. early childhood education by convening a panel of subject matter experts on current initiatives and research, and having a presentation from the Montana State Library on the Montana Ready2Read program;
5. the status of the Shared Policy Goals for the university, K-12, and K-20 education systems by reviewing the Shared Policy Goals and determining whether to modify and reaffirm them;
6. the effectiveness of teacher education programs and certification requirements by reviewing the programs and requirements;
7. the effects of the enactment of SB 175 and other school issues by convening a panel of representatives of various-sized school districts and by examining the changes to school funding that resulted from SB 175;
8. charter schools by having staff provide a review and comparison of the two charter school bills that emerged during the 2013 Legislature;
9. the status and possibility of open enrollment between Montana public schools by reviewing current law and considering policy changes; and
10. the implementation of the Montana Indian Languages Preservation Pilot Program by hearing an update from the State Tribal Economic Development Commission.

The committee determined to address the following additional LOCAL GOVERNMENT topic:

1. Continuing impacts and efforts to mitigate impacts in communities impacted by oil and gas development by convening a panel of representatives from those communities.

VI. Emerging issues and follow-up

The committee determined to allow room in its meeting schedule to allow for the emergence of additional issues needing the committee's attention as well as to allow for already identified topics to be followed up on as determined by the committee.

VII. Committee budget, operating rules, and meeting schedule

ELG has \$47,690 in its budget for the 2013-2014 interim. This amount was budgeted to accommodate three 1-day meetings and four 2-day meetings of the full committee. Staff will update the chair and vice-chair on the status of the budget prior to each meeting.

At the June meeting the committee determined to operate under the [Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines for Interim Committees](#).

Meeting dates (subject to change):

1. Monday, June 24, 2013
2. Monday-Tuesday, September 23-24, 2013
3. Monday, December 2, 2013
4. Thursday-Friday, January 30-31, 2014
5. Monday, April 7, 2013
6. Monday-Tuesday, June 16-17, 2014
7. Monday-Tuesday, September 15-16, 2014

ELG Planned Agenda Items (subject to change and addition)

	Sept 23-24, 2013	Dec 2, 2013	Jan 30-31, 2014	April 7, 2014	June 16-17, 2014	Sept 15-16, 2014
Standing Agenda Items	Rules Report	Rules Report	Rules Report	Rules Report	Rules Report	Rules Report
	MUS updates on completion rates, performance funding, teacher preparation, questions from the committee	BPE updates on accreditation, teacher certification, questions from the committee	OPI updates on topics TBD, questions from the committee	MUS updates on topics TBD, questions from the committee	BPE updates on topics TBD, questions from the committee	OPI updates on topics TBD, questions from the committee
	HJR 2 background: summary of EIG recommendations, statute review; ERM from 30,000 feet; agency and stakeholder strategies for approaching issue. Discussion of process, agency and stakeholder work group to meet on their own and report to ELG	HJR 2 work group progress report	HJR 2 work group progress report	HJR 2 work group final report, including recommendations for committee consideration	HJR 2—ELG discussion of legislative options; ELG decision on which bills to request/action to take, if any	HJR 2—Final review and approval of ELG-requested legislation, report, or other recommendations
	Review and follow-up as requested (Accreditation, SPGs, transpo, etc.)	Review and follow-up as requested (Accreditation, SPGs, transpo, etc.)	Review and follow-up as requested (Accreditation, SPGs, transpo, etc.)	Review and follow-up as requested (Accreditation, SPGs, transpo, etc.)	Review and follow-up as requested (Accreditation, SPGs, transpo, etc.)	Review and follow-up as requested (Accreditation, SPGs, transpo, etc.)
	Emerging issues and public comment	Emerging issues and public comment	Emerging issues and public comment	Emerging issues and public comment	Emerging issues and public comment	Emerging issues and public comment
Varying Agenda Items	ELG review of process related to 20-7-101, MCA— accreditation standards. Common Core background; review of implementation in MT; plans for future implementation		Panel discussion from various school districts on effects of SB 175 and other issues they are facing	Panel discussion with representatives from oil development impacted areas	Authorize drafting of any committee bills (Accreditation, Sand and Gravel Program, transpo, etc.)	Final review of any committee bills
	OPI update on high school equivalency testing and program and ESEA/NCLB reauthorization	Summary of Legislative Audit findings and recommendations related to School Transportation	Staff brief on advisory councils and required reports	Review process for agency-requested legislation	Final review of agency- requested legislation; determination of which bills to authorize drafting	Staff summary of reports and advisory councils; recommendations on advisory councils and required reports (if any)
	Brief review of Shared Policy Goals and committee decision on if/how to proceed		Report from Bureau of Mines on applicability of statute 82-2-701		Presentation of report on Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children	Presentation of report of Historic Preservation Officer
	OPI update on K-12 Data Task Force	Update on MT Indian Languages Preservation Pilot Program	Panel on Early Childhood Education		K-12 Data Task Force presentation	
	Presentation on "Ready2Read" program of Montana State Library	Staff review of 2013 charter school bills	Presentation on current law and possible policy changes regarding open enrollment		Review required reports	