



Education and Local Government Interim Committee
63rd Montana Legislature

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SHARED POLICY GOALS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR THE K-20 PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM 2017 BIENNIUM

The Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures for the Montana K-20 Public Education System represent joint efforts of the Legislature, the Board of Public Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Montana University System over the past several years. The goals, objectives, and measures are aligned with the strategic directions of these entities and reflect a shared commitment to quality and to:

1. Aligning high school outcomes with college readiness expectations to facilitate the transition from high school to college
2. Increasing college enrollment by Montana high school graduates
3. Expanding access to early college and career opportunities for Montana high school students
4. Utilizing K-20 data to improve student access to and achievement in postsecondary education

This document is nonbinding. The Education and Local Government Interim Committee (ELG) shall review, update, approve, and renew this understanding each biennium with the K-20 education system entities so that it may become the basis of state public policy in regard to the K-20 education system.

As a statement of public policy goals for education in Montana, this document reflects the ELG's commitment to academic quality throughout the K-20 education system and to ensuring that funding a high quality education system is a critical goal of the State of Montana. This document is intended to provide the policy direction needed to maintain a quality K-20 education system in Montana.

The authors of this document urge that it be used by the Legislature in the 2015 legislative session to frame education budget initiatives and other policy recommendations for the 2017 biennium.

K-20 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 Regents of Higher Education the full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage, and control the Montana University System and to supervise and coordinate other public institutions assigned to it by law; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 9, of the Montana Constitution states that the Board of Public Education shall exercise general supervision over the public school system; and

WHEREAS, section 20-3-106, MCA, grants supervision of 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, economic challenges facing the state require prioritizing a K-20 education system that serves economic development and job creation; and

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

WHEREAS, an understanding of shared policy goals and accountability measures for the entire K-20 public education system, shared by the Board of Regents, Commissioner of Higher Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education, and Education and Local Government Interim Committee, would represent an important advance in interagency cooperation and in 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 policy; and

WHEREAS, the ELG Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals for Education, comprised of four legislators and representatives from the Board of Regents, the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, has identified statewide public education policy goals and accountability measures for the K-20 public education system.

This UNDERSTANDING crafted by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee and the Board of Regents, the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, identifies the statewide public education policy goals and related accountability measures (see Table 1) that will be used as a policy goal setting and assessment tool for policymakers, the state education boards and agencies, and the general 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-20 public education system by the Montana State Legislature.

FURTHERMORE, the parties to this UNDERSTANDING agree that:

1. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Office of Public Instruction 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 will be posted to the Board of Regents, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Board of Public Education, and the Office of Public Instruction, and the Education and Local Government Interim Committee websites by June 30 of each year.
3. The most recent report will be presented to the House and Senate Education committees and the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education by the 10th legislative day of the 64th legislative session.

Table 1
K-20 Shared Policy Goals, Objectives, and Accountability Measures
2017 Biennium

Shared Policy Goals	Objectives	Accountability Measures
1. Align high school outcomes with college-readiness expectations to facilitate the transition from high school to college	1.1 Reform developmental education policies and practices in order to reduce remediation rates of entering freshman	1.1 Remediation rates of freshman who enter the Montana University System from Montana public high schools within 16 months of high school graduation
2. Increase the awareness among high school students and their families of opportunities to enroll in postsecondary education through improved collaboration among state entities	2.1 Increase the percentage of MT high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education 2.2 Increase the percentage of graduates who enroll in postsecondary education within 16 months of high school graduation from high schools identified as struggling	2.1 Percentage of MT high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education within 16 months of high school graduation 2.2 Percentage of graduates who enroll in postsecondary education within 16 months of high school graduation from high schools identified as struggling
3. Expand access to early college and career opportunities for high school students	3.1 Provide opportunities for high school students to enroll in college level courses through dual enrollment 3.2 Expand opportunities for students to earn industry-validated certificates while in high school	3.1 Number and percentage of high school students who are dually or concurrently enrolled 3.2 Number and percentage of high school students who earn industry-validated certificates through the Montana University System
4. Utilize K-20 data to identify best practices for improving student access to postsecondary and for promoting student success in postsecondary	4.1 Link K-12 and Higher Education data systems to create a trusted data source for analyzing how well high school programs are preparing students to succeed in postsecondary programs.	4.1 Percentage of high school students who use the electronic student transcript to apply to college

The signatures below denote that the signatories support the shared policy goals and accountability measures cited herein.

Dated this 15th day of September 2014.

Senator Tom Facey, Chair
Education and Local Government
Interim Committee

Paul Tuss, Chair
Board of Regents

Representative Don Jones, Vice Chair
Education and Local Government
Interim Committee

Clayton Christian, Commissioner of
Higher Education

Sharon Carroll, Chair
Board of Public Education

Denise Juneau, Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction

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