



School Funding Interim Commission

64th Montana Legislature

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November 12, 2015

Greetings Commissioners!

The purpose of this mailing is to provide you with additional background information and begin answering some of the questions and information requests generated at your first meeting and in the follow-up survey. **Please bring the enclosed materials along with previously distributed materials with you to the January meeting.** I plan on providing a second, similar mailing in early December. All of these materials will be posted to the commission webpage. Many of the documents include links to statutory references and other resources, so you may find it beneficial to use the online documents to access these resources. As always, please let me know if you need help accessing the information you need.

The School Funding Interim Commission is scheduled to meet **Monday, January 11 - Wednesday, January 13, 2016** beginning at 8:30 AM on the 11th in Room 137 of the State Capitol.

This mailing includes the following materials:

- ▶ a one-page summary of your September meeting with "parking lot" topics ranked in order of priority based on the follow-up survey
- ▶ a copy of a memo I prepared last June for Rep. Mehlhoff on school employee health benefits which provides an overview and some background on previous legislative proposals related to creating a statewide K-12 employee health benefits pool;
- ▶ a response to an information request submitted by Sen. Hansen regarding the recommendations of previous K-12 funding studies and legislative responses;
- ▶ two short papers, one providing an overview of the Quality Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, the other reviewing current law and financial implications related to school district reorganization; and
- ▶ an EAQ document addressing various "easily answered questions" generated by the commission.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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