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Education Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

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TO: Education Interim Committee Members
FROM: Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney
DATE: September 9, 2025
RE: Administrative Rule Review – September 2025

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MAR Notice No.	2025-215.1 Proposal – Early Numeracy Integration and Early Childhood Education Standards 2025-215.2 Adoption
Status	ADOPTED
Public Hearing Date	Friday, July 18 at 2:00 pm
Public Comment Period	CLOSED – as of Friday, July 25
Summary of Proposed Changes	<p>The Board of Public Education (BPE) published its notice of proposed changes to the Early Childhood Education Standards on June 27, 2025. In light of the changes made by the Legislature to the Early Targeted Intervention Program in HB 338, the Board struck the references to “literacy” in the former “Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Programs” and proposed a new rule to facilitate the integration of numeracy into the intervention programs for the current school year.</p> <p>BPE received a couple of comments from the public and as a result, made one change to the order of the existing early learning content standards to move the mathematics and numeracy standards behind the English language areas and literacy standards and ahead of the creative arts standards to emphasize the two priority domains by including them both at the beginning of the list.</p> <p>The rules were adopted and became effective as of August 9. 2025.</p>

MAR Notice No.	2025-242.1 Proposal – English Language Arts and Literacy Content Standards
Status	Under Consideration for Adoption
Public Hearing Date	Friday, August 29 at 10:00 am
Public Comment Period	CLOSED – as of Friday, September 5
Summary of Proposed Changes	BPE has published the proposal notice and the public comment period has closed for the proposed changes to the English language arts and literacy (ELAL) content standards. The last comprehensive review to the ELAL content standards was in 2011. Under the proposed changes, the standards are

	<p>reorganized by grade level rather than by domain. The language domain was eliminated and those standards were integrated into the writing, speaking, and listening domains. Additionally, a research and inquiry domain was created to distinguish research from writing.</p> <p>Under each new rule, by grade level, the rules specify the foundational reading standards, vocabulary standards, fluency standards, reading comprehension standards, writing standards, research and inquiry standards, and speaking and listening standards. Finally, BPE is proposing to adopt a new rule to provide definitions for terms used throughout the ELAL content standards.</p> <p>BPE intends to provide an economic impact statement to the Education Interim Budget Committee as required by statute in September and will vote to approve the final adoption notice in November. If the adoption notice is approved, the anticipated publication date is December 5, 2025, and the intended effective date of the rule changes is July 1, 2027.</p>
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