

SFIC Work Plan (working draft for review/discussion/modification at Jan 13 meeting)

								CALENDAR YEAR 2026					
	Aug 14 PM Zoom only	Sept 15-16 Helena	Sept Road Shows	Oct 14-15 Helena	Oct 16-17 Ed Confs	Nov 13-14 Helena	Dec 15 Zoom only	Jan 13 Zoom only	Feb 11-12 Helena	April 7-8 Helena	June 17-18 Helena	Aug 12-13 Helena	
Phase I: Innovation & Excellence in Education Working Group (IEEWG)													
Develop understanding of international comparisons, benchmarking, gap analysis	NCEE intro and overview of work												
NCEE-facilitated Road Shows/Outreach to educators, parents, students, business community (not full Commission/IEEWG)			Kalispell Havre Billings		Ed Confs Missoula Helena								
Reports back from outreach, develop IEEWG recommendations, implementation plan, cost estimates				Develop recs and plan		Feedback from Ed Confs Refine recs and plan	Further refinements Review draft report						
Finalize and Publish IEEWG report by Jan. 31, 2026								Finalize report					
Phase II: School Funding Formula Analysis and Recommendations													
Develop understanding of Montana's current funding formula, litigation history, issues with current formula	NCSL Principles Hist Background Defining equity and adequacy	Dist Rev Big Pic Dist Gen Fund 20-9-309 Xwalk		Gen fund PPR Equalization and Mill rates Sp Ed basics Tuition Fund		LAD update Facilities 101 RFI update	Phase II Planning	RFP update Feb outline Funding training (if time)	All funds overview Dist GF deep dive Inflation Analysis Sp Ed deep dive Facilities deep dive	Further explore identified issues with current formula			
Conduct consultant-advised cost study using successful schools methodology									Intro Consultant Overview methodology Define successful school	Study update and discussion Commission direction as needed	Study results Consultant analysis Discuss findings		
Analyze alignment of IEEWG recommendations and existing funding formula; consider changes										Staff analysis Commission discussion			
Develop SFIC findings, recommendations, draft legislation incorporating public comment										Workshop potential findings and recs Discuss potential legislation	Refine findings and recs Review potential legislation		
Finalize and Publish SFIC report by Sept. 1, 2026													
Estimated Meeting/Outreach Cost	\$ 2,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	ESTIMATED BUDGET TOTAL \$ 140,000