

Education and the Interim—Committee Background

prepared for EDIC by Pad McCracken, LSD Research Analyst, July 2025

Pre-1999	Prior to the 1999-2000 Interim, a handful of permanent committees existed, many of which still do in one form or another (Audit; LEG Council, LFC, State-Tribal, EQC); otherwise, studies were assigned to joint subcommittees of session standing committees on a more ad hoc basis
1993-1998	There was a statutory Joint Committee on Postsecondary Education Policy and Budget (PEPB) that included legislators, regents, and a representative of the GOV's office
1999	The legislature restructured the interim and created statutory interim committees, including an Education Interim Committee that absorbed PEPB's duties; PEPB statutes were repealed
2001	The legislature added local government to the Education Interim Committee, creating ELG
2001-2008	ELG created a PEPB subcommittee each interim
2009-2014	Shared Policy Goals for K-12, K-20, MUS were established between ELG, SPI, BPE, and the Regents (not to be confused with the Shared Policy Goals that the Section E subcommittee has been establishing with the MUS in recent sessions)
2017	The legislature divided ELG into EDIC and LGIC
2021	EDIC's enabling statute was amended to remove old PEPB duties related to fiscal oversight of the MUS; interim committee review of statewide ballot initiatives added as statutory requirement



In the heat of the tightly structured, 90-day session, legislators often identify issues they want to study in more depth. The interim offers you a more measured opportunity to research, meet with subject-matter experts, and listen to the public's perspectives on critical and complex issues. It allows you to define problems, explore alternatives, seek solutions, and propose and test ideas.

from “Life After Sine Die”

Education Interim Committee Presiding Officer History and Studies

Year	Chair	Vice Chair	Education studies, subcommittees, and other
2005-2006 (ELG)	Sen. Jeff Mangan (D)	Rep. Mark Noennig (R)	The Quality Schools Interim Committee (QSIC) was established to address Columbia Falls v. State; PEPB subcommittee formed
2007-2008 (ELG)	Sen. Rick Laible (R)	Rep. Gary Branae (D)	HJ 22—provide incentives for dental students; PEPB subcommittee formed; K-12 subcommittee formed
2009-2010 (ELG)	Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)	Sen. Kelly Gebhardt (R)	SJ 2—community college establishment; a subcommittee formed to address Shared Policy Goals for K-12 and K-20
2011-2012 (ELG)	Rep. Elsie Arntzen (R)	Sen. Gary Branae (D)	SJ 28—performance-based K-12 funding
2013-2014 (ELG)	Sen. Tom Facey (D)	Rep. Don Jones (R)	HJ 2—electronic records management; a subcommittee formed to address Shared Policy Goals for K-12, K-20, and MUS
2015-2016 (ELG)	Rep. Don Jones (R)	Sen. Stewart-Peregoy (D)	HJ 26—youth concussion laws; the School Funding Interim Commission (aka “the decennial study”) was established pursuant to 20-9-309, MCA
2017-2018	Sen. Edie McClafferty (D)	Rep. Fred Anderson (R)	HJ 1—funding for special needs
2019-2020	Rep. Fred Anderson (R)	Sen. Edie McClafferty (D)	HJ 56 –bullying and student well-being; the committee devoted significant time to preschool
2021-2022	Sen. Edie McClafferty (D)	Rep. Fred Anderson (R)	HJ 47 – educational programs for the incarcerated Two large convenings of the "Constitutional Players" to discuss a "case for change" in redesigning Montana's education system
2023-2024	Sen. Dan Salomon (R)	Sen. Edie McClafferty (D)	Monitoring implementation of 2023 legislation; Constitutional Players visit to Bishop Carroll High School in Calgary, Alberta (Nov 2023) and convening as part of LEG Week (June 2024)

