

Possible topics for the 2025-2026 Education Interim Committee (EDIC)

for committee discussion, compiled by committee staff based on phone calls with EDIC members, July 2025

General and PK-20+

Collaboration with the Education Interim Budget Committee (EIBC; Reps. Bedey, Jones, Barker, Keogh, and Matthews, and Sens. Fuller, Regier, and Windy Boy); meeting jointly with the EIBC on occasion throughout the interim was a unanimous desire of EDIC members

Teacher preparation in an evolving education landscape/system; principal preparation generally

PK-12

Public Charter Schools; what is happening in MT and what changes regarding school choice might be coming from the federal government (Congress, POTUS, SCOTUS)

Accountability and assessment; where are we and where are we going in an increasingly proficiency-based and individual-student-growth-oriented system (might be a good topic for joint meeting with BPE in November)

Special Education:

- Staffing and funding
- Co-ops generally and boundaries
- Monitor any federal changes
- Explore responsibilities under IDEA for nonpublic and home school students

School facilities

- Status and funding
- School buildings and availability as community centers

Early literacy and early education generally

- Monitor ELA standards revision/implementation
- What can MT learn from leading states

English language learners; changing needs in Montana; federal changes

Update on Indian education issues (panel discussion with Indian School Board Caucus, MACIE, MIEA)

Student engagement and attendance; what is happening with dropout rate

Ongoing updates from SFIC (four EDIC members serve on SFIC)

Update(s) on Teacher Apprenticeship Program

Postsecondary

Joint meeting with Regents (Nov 20-21 in Missoula); topics TBD; unanimous desire of EDIC members