



# Education Interim Committee

## 69th Montana Legislature

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TO: Education Interim Committee Members  
FROM: Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney  
DATE: March 13, 2026  
RE: Administrative Rule Review – March 2026

### BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MAR Notice No.	<a href="#">2025-479.2 Early Targeted Interventions Standards</a>
Status	ADOPTED
Public Hearing Date	January 6, 2026
Public Comment Period	Closed: January 6, 2026 at 5pm
Summary of Proposed Changes	As noted in the January 2026 rule review memo, the Board of Public Education did not receive any public comment on the proposed changes at the public hearing in January. The amendments to the early targeted intervention standards were adopted as proposed and took effect on February 7, 2026.

MAR Notice No.	<a href="#">2026-4.1 Class 9 Special Education Technician License</a>
Status	PROPOSED
Public Hearing Date	March 3, 2026
Public Comment Period	Closed: March 6, 2026 at 5pm
Summary of Proposed Changes	<p>The Board is proposing to create a new Class 9 Special Education Technician License to certify paraprofessionals who meet requirements for providing technical services to a special education supervising teacher.</p> <p>The 5-year license would require the technician to: have a high school or high school equivalency diploma; complete the special education technician online learning modules set by the Superintendent of Public Instruction; perform 1,000 hours of special education work or other relevant work; complete 4 introductory courses in education, to be determined by the Superintendent, at an accredited college or university; and complete the online course “An Introduction to Indian Education for All in Montana.” Renewal of the license will require the licensee to complete 30 professional development units during the term of the license.</p>

	The Board did not receive any public comments about the proposed rule, and they will be voting to approve the rule as proposed at their meeting on March 19, 2026 . If approved, the adoption notice will be published on April 10, 2026, and the rule will take effect on May 1, 2026.
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**OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

MAR Notice No.	<a href="#">2025-846.2 Background Checks for Certain Public School Employees and Volunteers</a>
Status	ADOPTED
Public Hearing Date	January 9, 2026
Public Comment Period	Closed: January 16, 2026 at 5pm
Summary of Proposed Changes	<p>The Office of Public Instruction received several public comments regarding the proposed new rule implementing the new requirements for fingerprint-based national criminal history background checks for all adults who have unsupervised contact with students. The agency’s responses to these comments are available at the link to the MAR notice, above, and the final adopted version of new rule #2 makes a change to reflect some of the comments. The final rule allows a student to be left alone with an adult who has not undergone the required background check if they are in a public environment, along with the previously proposed exception “in the case of a momentary absence”.</p> <p>The new rules took effect on March 7, 2026.</p>