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# Education Interim Committee

69th Montana Legislature

## SENATE MEMBERS

DANIEL EMRICH  
SARA NOVAK – Vice Chair  
MATT REGIER  
SUE VINTON

## HOUSE MEMBERS

LEE DEMING  
SHELLY FYANT  
RANDYN GREGG  
LINDA REKSTEN - Chair  
MELISSA ROMANO

## COMMITTEE STAFF

PAD MCCracken, Lead Staff  
LAURA SANKEY KEIP, Staff Attorney  
BECCA BROWN, Staff  
ANIA ALDUENDA, Secretary

## FINAL AGENDA

### Education Interim Committee

September 9, 2025

Room 317, Montana State Capitol

Note: Agenda times are approximate. Some agenda items may require more or less time than indicated.

### Tuesday, September 9

- 8:30 a.m. Call to order – roll call – Chair Reksten
- 8:35 Administrative Rule Review process and committee role – Laura Sankey Keip, Committee Staff Attorney
- 8:45 Montana State Library video intro and update
- 9:00 Montana University System update – Galen Hollenbaugh, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Communications, and Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
- 9:15 Update on School Funding Interim Commission (SFIC) – Committee staff and Sens. Novak and Vinton and Reps. Deming and Romano (SFIC members)
- 9:30 Special Education 101+ panel discussion
- Patrick Cates, Senior Manager, Student Support Services, OPI
  - Frank Podobnik, Associate Director, Center for Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education (TAESE)
  - Heidi Gibson, Executive Director, Montana Empowerment Center
  - Bea Kaleva, Kaleva Law Office
  - Public Comment
- 11:30 Utilization of school facilities by community organizations panel discussion
- Larry Crowder, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association
  - Dr. Rob Watson, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana
  - Andrew Vigeland, HR Services Director, Montana School Boards Association
- 12:00 Recess for lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Required reports (as requested by the committee; committee Q&A following each report)
- Indian Education for All – Paul Taylor (via Zoom), School Finance Manager, and Katie Bloodgood, Deputy Chief of Staff & Policy Director, OPI
  - Out-of-district attendance – Paul Taylor (via Zoom)

- Early Targeted Interventions Christy Mock Stutz, Assistant Chief Program Officer, and Marie Judisch, Teaching & Learning Senior Manager, OPI
- School Funding Inflation – Paul Taylor (via Zoom)

- 2:00 Content standards revision process and rulemaking update
- Julie Murgel, Chief Program Officer, Office of Public Instruction
  - Marie Judisch, Teaching & Learning Senior Manager, Office of Public Instruction
  - McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education
  - Laura Sankey Keip, Committee Staff Attorney
- 2:30 HB 549 (2023) Public charter schools 101
- McCall Flynn, Executive Director, Board of Public Education
  - Pad McCracken, Committee Staff
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions/discussion
- 3:00 HJ 53 Study of School Safety
- Understanding and unpacking the 10 Essential Actions - Nancy Berg, Director, and Tina Hayes, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Montana Safe Schools Center
  - Panel discussion on improving school district adoption of 10 Essential Actions
    - Nick Holloway - Deputy Disaster and Emergency Services (DES) Coordinator, Missoula County Office of Emergency Management (in person)
    - Molly Blakley - Superintendent, Hellgate Elementary (in person)
    - Dan Kimzey - Teacher/School Safety Coordinator, Hamilton High School (Zoom)
    - Officer Mark Monaco - School Resource Officer, Sentinel High School, Missoula Police Department (Zoom)
    - Christina Hartmann - Superintendent/Principal, Seeley Lake School District (in person)
    - Tina Hayes, Trustee, Missoula County Public Schools (moderator)
  - Public Comment
  - Committee questions/discussion
- 4:30 Public comment on any other topic within the committee's jurisdiction
- 4:45 Revised work plan review/adoption – Pad McCracken, Committee Staff
- 5:00 Wrap up – next meeting date and agenda items – adjourn

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**To offer public comment** via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting: <https://participate.legmt.gov/>.

**Written public comment** may be submitted either through the [online form](#) for written comment or by mailing the comments to Education Interim Committee, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

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