



SCHOOL FUNDING INTERIM COMMISSION

69th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Becky Beard
Forrest Mandeville
Jacinda Morigeau
Sara Novak
Sue Vinton
Jonathan Windy Boy

HOUSE MEMBERS

Brad Barker
David Bedey
Lee Deming
Eric Matthews
Luke Muszkiewicz
Melissa Romano

COMMITTEE STAFF

Rebecca Brown - Research Analyst
Pad McCracken - Lead Staff
Julia Pattin - Fiscal Analyst
Laura Sankey Keip - Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer - Secretary

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Tom Burnett
Clayton Christian
Rachel Green
Susie Hedalen
Martha Potter
Matt Schreiber
Tim Tharp
Mike Waterman

MINUTES LOG

August 14, 2025

Zoom Only

Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. David Bedey, Presiding Officer (R)
Rep. Eric Matthews, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Rep. Brad Barker (R)
Sen. Becky Beard (R)
Tom Burnett, Public Member
Rep. Lee Deming (R)
Susie Hedalen, Public Member
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)
Sen. Jacinda Morigeau (D)
Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz (D)
Sen. Sara Novak (D)
Martha Potter, Public Member
Rep. Melissa Romano (D)
Matt Schreiber, Public Member
Tim Tharp, Public Member
Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy (D)
Mike Waterman, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Clayton Christian, Public Member
Rachel Green, Public Member
Sen. Sue Vinton (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:**STAFF PRESENT:**

Pad McCracken, Lead Staff
Rebecca Brown, Research Analyst
Julia Pattin, Fiscal Analyst
Laura Sankey Keip, Legal Staff
Jolanda Songer, Secretary

AGENDA ([Attachment 1](#))**VISITORS' LIST** (Zoom Only)**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

13:04:31 Presiding Officer David Bedey called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

REVIEW COMMISSION WORK PLAN

13:06:22 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 1](#)
13:10:47 Rachel Green joined via Zoom.

INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

13:11:56 Presiding Officer David Bedey

NCEE Background, Work in Other States, Suggested Approach, and Outreach

13:11:54 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
13:12:32 Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)
[EXHIBIT 2](#)
13:17:38 Janice Case, Regional Director West, NCEE
(See Exhibit 2)
13:21:31 Nathan Driskell, NCEE
13:31:03 Director Janice Case, NCEE
13:34:56 Nathan Driskell

Questions, Discussion, Input from Commission

13:39:51 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
13:42:01 Nathan Driskell
13:46:46 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
13:48:38 Sen. Becky Beard

13:49:53 Commissioner Mike Waterman
13:50:15 Nathan Driskell
13:51:00 Rep. Lee Deming
13:51:18 Nathan Driskell
13:52:01 Superintendent Susie Hedalen
13:55:04 Commissioner Martha Potter
13:55:56 Nathan Driskell
13:56:17 Presiding Officer David Bedey

SCHOOL FUNDING FOUNDATIONS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Principles of Sound State School Funding Systems

14:00:42 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
14:03:29 Dan Thatcher, National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
[EXHIBIT 3](#)

Questions from the Commission

14:23:33 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:25:27 Dan Thatcher, NCSL

Principles of Sound State School Funding Systems - Continued

14:28:31 Mike Griffith, Learning Policy Institute (LPI)
(See Exhibit 3)

Questions from the Commission

14:51:24 Commissioner Mike Waterman
14:51:52 Mike Griffith, LPI
14:55:21 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
14:57:26 Mike Griffith
14:59:37 Dan Thatcher
15:06:04 Rep. Luke Muszkiewicz
15:06:37 Presiding Officer David Bedey
15:08:31 Commissioner Martha Potter
15:09:40 Mike Griffith

15:14:29 **Recessed**

15:21:37 **Reconvened**

PREVIOUS STUDY SUMMARIES / HIGHLIGHTS

15:21:55 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 4](#)

PUBLIC COMMENT

15:49:22 Kay Satre, Trustee, Helena Public Schools
15:52:48 Cathy Kincheloe, Director of Planning, Community Choice Schools Commission
15:54:43 Sen. Sue Vinton joined the meeting via Zoom.
15:55:31 Tamara Fisher Alley, K-12 Gifted Education Specialist, Polson School District and Past President of Montana Association for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE)
16:01:07 Karen Moses, Retired School Board Member, School District 2
16:06:20 Jamie Marshall, Presiding Officer, Kids Education Yes (KEY), Great Falls
16:08:22 Dean Jardee, President, Montana Parent Teachers Association (PTA) and Former Teacher and Administrator
16:10:38 Jenny Murnane Butcher, Deputy Director, Montanans Organized for Education (MOFE)

COMMISSION WORK SESSION

Working Group Membership/Representation

16:12:24 Presiding Officer David Bedey

Motion

16:15:59 Vice Presiding Officer Eric Matthews moved to reconsider a previous action regarding having one parent group on the working group, instead the commission will not name any specific groups but encourages all stakeholder groups to provide input through various means as suggested in the memo provided by Pad McCracken.
[EXHIBIT 5](#)

Discussion on the Motion

16:16:41 Commissioner Tim Tharp
16:17:55 Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:18:14 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:19:35 Sen. Sara Novak
16:20:17 Sen. Becky Beard
16:21:00 Commissioner Burnett

Vote

16:21:24 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

16:21:46 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:22:00 Direction to Staff by Presiding Officer David Bedey.
16:22:28 Direction to Staff by Sen. Forrest Mandeville.

Commission Work Plan, Calendar

16:23:04 Pad McCracken, Lead Staff, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
(See Exhibit 1)
16:26:15 Commissioner Martha Potter
16:27:16 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:27:49 Pad McCracken, LSD
16:29:54 Commissioner Mike Waterman
16:30:26 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:30:55 Pad McCracken
16:31:45 Direction to Staff by Presiding Officer David Bedey.
16:31:57 Commissioner Martha Potter
16:32:29 Sen. Jacinda Morigeau
16:33:18 Pad McCracken
16:34:25 Janice Case, Regional Director West, National Center on Education and the
Economy (NCEE)
16:36:44 Direction to Staff by Presiding Officer David Bedey.
16:37:28 Pad McCracken

Optional Homework / Local Outreach

16:38:08 Pad McCracken
16:39:29 Becca Brown, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)
[EXHIBIT 6](#)
16:42:32 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:42:44 Direction to Staff by Commissioner Matt Schreiber
16:42:58 Becca Brown, LSD
16:43:12 Presiding Officer David Bedey
16:44:21 Superintendent Susie Hedalen

Review Plans for September 15-16 Meeting

16:46:52 Pad McCracken
16:47:41 Presiding Officer David Bedey.
16:48:15 Direction to Staff by Presiding Officer David Bedey.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 16:52:51