



School Funding Interim Commission

69th Montana Legislature

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TO: School Funding Interim Commission
FROM: Pad McCracken; Commission Staff
RE: Options for Innovation and Excellence in Education Working Group membership and outreach
DATE: June 20, 2025

At your June 4 meeting, there were several options discussed for appointing additional members to the Innovation and Excellence in Education Working Group (IEEWG). There also seemed to be general consensus to robustly seek input from stakeholders throughout the entire IEEWG effort. After discussing with Chairman Bedey and Vice-Chair Matthews, the following recommendations were developed for the Commission's consideration:

1. Appointing 5 additional IEEWG members as named by the following education stakeholder organizations, 1 IEEWG member per organization:
 - a. Teachers – MFPE (Montana Federation of Public Employees)
 - b. School Administrators – SAM (School Administrators of Montana)
 - c. School Trustees – MTSBA (Montana School Boards Association)
 - d. Parents – Montana PTA (Parent-Teacher Association)
 - e. School District Clerks – MASBO (Montana Association of School Business Officials)
2. Conducting August/September “road shows” (not Commission or IEEWG meetings, but facilitator-led sessions, ideally with several Commission/IEEWG members from the area attending; perhaps Kalispell, Havre, and Billings)
3. Conducting outreach sessions at the October 16-17 education gatherings in Missoula and Helena (again, not Commission/IEEWG meetings, but facilitator-led with several Commission/IEEWG members attending)

Additionally, all meetings of the Commission/IEEWG would include opportunities for public comment, with meetings held in the Capitol allowing remote public comment.