



# School Funding Interim Commission

69th Montana Legislature

PO BOX 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX (406) 444-3036

## SENATE MEMBERS

BECKY BEARD  
FORREST MANDEVILLE  
JACINDA MORIGEAU  
SARA NOVAK  
SUE VINTON  
JONATHAN WINDY BOY

## HOUSE MEMBERS

BRAD BARKER  
DAVID BEDEY – Chair  
LEE DEMING  
ERIC MATTHEWS – Vice Chair  
LUKE MUSZKIEWICZ  
MELISSA ROMANO

## OTHER MEMBERS

TOM BURNETT  
CLAYTON CHRISTIAN  
RACHEL GREEN  
SUSIE HEDALEN  
MARTHA POTTER  
MATT SCHREIBER  
DR. TIM THARP  
MIKE WATERMAN

## COMMISSION STAFF

PAD MCCRACKEN, Lead Staff  
LAURA SANKEY KEIP, Staff Attorney  
JULIA PATTIN, Fiscal Analyst  
KATE JOHNSON, Fiscal Analyst  
BECCA BROWN, Staff  
JOLANDA SONGER, Secretary

## AGENDA

School Funding Interim Commission  
October 14-15, 2025, Capitol Room 317 and Zoom

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

Public comment is encouraged and will be taken at various times throughout the meeting at the Chairman's discretion and at natural topic breaks.

### Tuesday, October 14

- 8:00 a.m. Call to order – roll call – *Chairman Bedey*
- 8:05 Review HB 153 and “Phase I” requirements – *Chairman Bedey*
- 8:15 Review Agenda, Work Plan, Phase II approach – *Commission staff*
- 8:30 Innovation and Excellence in Education Workshop II – *Nathan Driskell, Chief Policy Officer, and Janice Case, Regional Director West, and Matt Bachand, Senior Designer - Policy, National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE)*

This workshop will encompass much of the Commission's 2-day meeting and will include a mix of large-group learning sessions as well as some smaller-group breakouts and two practitioner panels.

The broad themes of the workshop will be:

- Discover: Looking In: Identify strengths and opportunities to build on within Montana
- Design: Align around a core vision for Montana's young people and prioritized policy levers for Montana

Elements of the workshop will include:

- Reporting from the roadshows and other outreach efforts
- Developing the core vision

- Analyzing how the current Montana policy landscape aligns with and supports the core vision
- Planning for outreach at the education conferences October 16-17

12:00 p.m. Recess for lunch

1:00 Practitioner Panel #1 - Montana's classrooms: what bright spots are working in either early learning (preK - 3) and/or preparing students for multiple pathways after graduation? What policies would allow us to scale? What policies are currently constraining our efforts to scale?

- Lance Edward, English Teacher, Billings West High School
- Valerie Pacht, Special Education Teacher, Custer County High School
- Liz Deshner, School Psychologist, Belgrade School District
- Kelly Kinsey, Assistant Superintendent, Lockwood School District
- Matt Lewis, Principal, Fergus High School
- Drea O'Donnell, Superintendent, Shepherd Public Schools

3:30 School funding training I – *Commission staff*

4:30 Final public comment of the day

5:00 Recess until 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 15

### **Wednesday, October 15**

8:00 a.m. Call to order

8:05 Innovation and Excellence in Education Workshop II cont'd (see Tuesday agenda)

9:00 Practitioner Panel #2 - Montana's Systems: what policy shifts are needed to provide Montana school systems with the necessary conditions and capacities to prepare students to be ready for the world they are facing?

- Rebekah Rhoades, Business Manager/School Clerk, Lewistown Public Schools
- Sue Corrigan, Trustee, Kalispell Public Schools
- Krystal Zentner, Trustee, Bridger Public Schools
- Heather Hoyer, Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools
- Corey Clark, Superintendent, Geraldine Public Schools

12:00 p.m. Recess for lunch

1:00 School funding training II – *Commission staff*

2:30 Innovation and Excellence in Education Workshop II cont'd

4:00 Final public comment of the meeting

4:30 Commission work session

- Commission Work Plan, Calendar
- Review plans for November 13-14 meeting – directions to staff

5:00 Adjourn

## Public Participation

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either using remote meeting technology or in writing.

**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 School Funding Interim Commission, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

*\*Public comment provided in person or remotely at a legislative meeting is a public record that is videotaped, archived, and available on the internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the meeting.*

## Accessibility

The Montana Legislative Services Division makes reasonable accommodations for persons who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact the ADA coordinator, Leah Hibbs, at 406-444-3073 or [leah.hibbs@legmt.gov](mailto:leah.hibbs@legmt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.