



Board of Public Education

BOARD MEMBERS

February 2, 2021

APPOINTED MEMBERS:

Darlene Schottle-Chair
Bigfork

House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
c/o Chairman Bedey

Tammy Lacey-Vice Chair
Great Falls

RE: HB 2 Computer Science Content Standards Implementation Funding

Madalyn Quinlan
Helena

Dear Chairman Bedey and Members of the Subcommittee,

Sharon Carroll
Ekalaka

The Montana Board of Public Education requests implementation funding of the Computer Science Content Standards.

Mary Jo Bremner
Browning

Content standards are adopted by the Board of Public Education through the administrative rulemaking process. The content standards for thirteen academic subject areas are promulgated in Title 10, Chapter 53 and 54. The content standards are used by school districts to develop local curriculum and assessments in all the content areas. The addition of the Computer Science Content Standards was requested and confirmed during the research and review phases of standards proposal development. The new Computer Science Content Standards are based on relevant and rigorous learning experiences across the range of Computer Science learning opportunities. As prescribed in 2-4-405, MCA the Office of Public Instruction prepared an Economic Impact Statement to determine the impact of the proposed adoption. With responses from 30 school districts, the Office of Public Instruction determined the total cost to be roughly \$1.78M.

Anne Keith
Bozeman

Jeremiah Lynch
Missoula

Paige Lepard, Student Rep.
Great Falls

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Clayton Christian
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Elsie Arntzen,
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Greg Gianforte, Governor

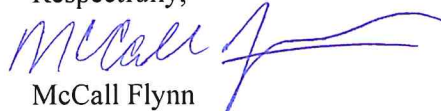
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

McCall Flynn

In 2015, Superintendent Arntzen, then Representative Arntzen, carried legislation that required the Board of Public Education to request funding, should any content standards revisions have a positive economic impact statement. 20-7-101 (4), MCA states that unless the expenditures by school districts required under the proposal are determined by the education interim committee to be insubstantial expenditures that can be readily absorbed into the budgets of existing district programs, the board may not implement the standard until July 1 following the next regular legislative session and shall request that the same legislature fund implementation of the proposed standard. Because the Office of Public Instruction has both the resources and mechanism to allocate funding to our school districts, the Board of Public Education has coordinated a request for funding, as required in 20-7-101 (4), MCA.

Thank you for your consideration of the budget request for the Computer Science Content Standards implementation funding.

Respectfully,


McCall Flynn
Executive Director