



HB0002 SAM Testimony 2-1-21



House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

01-FEB-21	9:00 AM	472	HB 2  	General Appropriations Act	Llew Jones (R) HD 18	1 SF. Support. Office of Public Instruction - State Level Activities. MTDA budget
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Proponent Supporting the Budget of OPI – State Level Activities Program 06

To: House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, Chairman Bedey

Re: HB 2 Office of Public Instruction – State Level Activities Program 06

Date: February 1, 2021

Dear Chairman Bedey and Subcommittee Members,

SAM supports the Office of Public Instruction – State Level Activities Program 06 budget proposal as represented in Governor Gianforte’s Executive Budget. The State Level Activities program provides leadership and coordination of services to public schools in Montana.

The importance of funding the proposed budget requests strengthens the service that the Office of Public Instruction provides to our public schools. SAM specifically supports the Present Law Adjustments and the New Proposal requests as outlined.

Further, SAM’s Montana Digital Academy advocacy position supporting continued funding by the state to guarantee equitable access to educational curriculum ... lends SAM support for the new proposal requests of the Montana Digital Academy to support the ongoing opportunity for Montana school districts and students’ access to quality remote learning opportunities. SAM supports the continued funding for the operation of the MTDA, and the request for one-time-only allocation to meet the new/expanded courses to be offered. SAM believes these proposals support the core purpose of the MTDA to ensure digital course access and equity is available to all schools (especially rural schools) across Montana.

Thank you for your consideration of the budget requests of the Office of Public Instruction – State Level Activities Program 06. I trust that you realize the important role that the Office of Public Instruction holds in providing an excellent education to the children of our great state.

On behalf of SAM, I request your support of Office of Public Instruction – State Level Activities Program 06 budget requests!

For more information, please contact:

Kirk Miller, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

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406-581-1037

Rick Duncan, Advocacy Committee Chairman, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)
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Montana Quality Education Coalition

Date: Monday, February 1, 2021
To: Section E Joint Appropriations Subcommittee, Chair Representative David Bedey
From: Dianne Burke, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition
Subject: Testimony in support of House Bill 2: Office of Public Instruction, State Level Activities

The Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) supports the recommended proposals in Governor Gianforte's budget for Section E: Office of Public Instruction, Program 6, State Level Activities.

The statewide present law adjustments call for an increase of roughly \$6,000 over the biennium, and the bulk of the new proposal funding is related to NP 604 which requests \$1 million over the biennium for part-time positions that are re-categorized due to changes in statute.

The Program 6 budget directly supports the work of local school districts in providing educational services for the approximately 150,000 students served by 403 school districts in 826 schools by almost 16,000 licensed K-12 staff and paraprofessionals. Within this Program, the Office of Public Instruction provides services in educator licensing and preparation; content standards and instruction; accreditation; career and technical education; special education; American Indian education and student achievement; federal compliance; school improvement; school health, safety, and nutrition; school finance; and assessment.

The activities provided through program 6 are vital to the continued success of Montana's public schools. MQEC thanks the committee for your consideration and we urge support of the Office of Public Instruction State Level Activities budget for the 2023 biennium.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne M. Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

HB0002 SAM Testimony 2-2-21



House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

02-FEB-21	8:30 AM	472	HB 2  	General Appropriations Act	Llew Jones (R) HD 18	1 SF. Support. Office of Public Instruction - Local Education Activities
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Proponent Supporting the Budget of OPI – Local Education Activities Program 09

To: House Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, Chairman Bedey
Re: HB 2 Office of Public Instruction – Local Education Activities Program 09
Date: February 2, 2021

Dear Chairman Bedey and Subcommittee Members,

SAM supports the Office of Public Instruction – Local Education Activities Program 09 budget proposal as represented in Governor Gianforte’s Executive Budget. The Local Education Activities Program provides the state and federal funding to local education agencies supporting educational opportunities for Montana’s 150,000+ public school students all across Montana. This support is one of the largest allocations of the state general fund investing in Montana’s most precious resource, the education of our children.

The importance of funding the proposed budget requests strengthens Montana’s quality public education system to support the needs for each child, every day! This support goes far beyond academic opportunities and includes social emotional support and investing in opportunities for the whole child. This investment is critical for the continued viability and progress of Montana’s communities and the economic stability and growth of our state. SAM specifically supports the Present Law Adjustments and the New Proposal requests as outlined.

Further, SAM’s Montana Digital Academy advocacy position supporting continued funding by the state to guarantee equitable access to educational curriculum ... lends SAM support for the new proposal requests of the Montana Digital Academy to support the ongoing opportunity for Montana school districts and students’ access to quality remote learning opportunities. SAM supports the continued funding for the operation of the MTDA, and the request for one-time-only allocation to meet the new/expanded courses to be offered. SAM believes these proposals support the core purpose of the MTDA to ensure digital course access and equity is available to all schools (especially rural schools) across Montana.

Thank you for your consideration of the budget requests of the Office of Public Instruction – Local Education Activities Program 09. I trust that you realize the important role that the support of Program 09 holds in providing an excellent education to the children of our great state.

On behalf of SAM, I request your support of Office of Public Instruction – Local Education Activities Program 09 budget requests!

For more information, please contact:

Kirk Miller, Executive Director, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

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Rick Duncan, Advocacy Committee Chairman, School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

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