

From: Sen. Rick Laible, Chairman, ELG
To: Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, Board of Public Education

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Distance learning

The following are merely presented as grist for discussion at the March 14th meeting of the full Education and Local Government (ELG) Interim Committee. The ELG Chairman invites you to consider and speak to the following **possibilities**.

1. Possible options for the ELG committee:
 - a. *Allow for reciprocity* with other states so that teachers licensed in other states can provide online services for Montana students.
 - b. *Allow university faculty*, including those at 2 year institutions, to provide online instruction for dual credits, and single college credits.
 - c. Consider changes to distance learning rules that would *allow more participation*, especially among small rural schools.
 - d. What are the *goals* and *objectives* for Montana's distance learning system in terms of:
 1. *Impact* of distance learning on rural schools (especially those with declining enrollment): What impact is possible, desirable, and doable?
 2. *Growth* of system (i.e. student increase per year): What growth is possible, desirable, and doable?
 3. *Out of state teachers*: Is it desirable and doable to reciprocally allow any instructor certified in another state as a teacher of distance learning to do the same in Montana?
 4. *Legislation*: Is it possible and desirable to craft legislation that would guide growth of Montana's distance learning system toward these goals and objectives?
 - e) Should the ELG Committee encourage the Board of Public Education and the educational community to solve the problem long term, rather than by short term rule making authority?
 - f) Should the ELG Committee prepare a bill to implement bipartisan recommendations for the growth of distance learning in our state?