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To: Board of Public Education

From: Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent

Subject: Implementation of Proposed Changes to ARM Chapter 59 Preschool Program Standards

Section 20-7-101, MCA requires the Board of Public Education to submit proposed rule changes to the Education and Local Government Interim Committee for review. The interim committee then requests a fiscal analysis to be prepared by the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD). Upon completion of the analysis, the LFD provides its analysis to the interim committee and to the Governor's budget office (Office of Budget and Program Planning) to be used in the preparation of the executive budget.

According to the process that was established in 2009 by the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Legislative Fiscal Division, the Office of Public Instruction provides the Board of Public Education with a set of assumptions for development of the fiscal analysis. The board reviews the assumptions and provides these assumptions to the LFD to assist with the fiscal analysis.

OPI proposes the following assumptions to be used as the basis for the fiscal analysis of the proposed changes to ARM Chapter 59 Preschool Program Standards.

Assumptions:

1. School districts are not required through the rules proposed to the Board of Public Education to develop and implement a Preschool program.
2. The proposed rules do not require attendance of preschool aged students if a school district voluntarily implements a preschool program.
3. Under the proposed rules school districts may elect to contract with existing preschool programs. These programs would need to meet accreditation standards which may or may not

require changes to the program to meet these standards such as licensure and delivery of program standard. When contracting for services the host school district may or may not have a fiscal responsibility to make any changes needed by the vendor to meet accreditation standards.

4. Under the proposed rules school districts may elect to use an existing preschool program that operates under MCA 20-7-117. Kindergarten and preschool programs, which may or may not require additional changes to meet the proposed rules.

5. Under the proposed rules school districts may elect to start a new preschool program that operates under MCA 20-7-117 Kindergarten and preschool programs, which may or may not require additional changes to meet the proposed rules.