

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.5643
In-State Toll-free: 1.888.231.9393
TTY Users: 406.444.0235
opi.mt.gov

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A+**



April 17, 2020

Representative David Bedey
Legislative Finance Committee
Subcommittee on Education

Dear Chairman Bedey,

I am writing in support of bill draft PD0001, "A Draft Bill Providing Inflationary and ANB Adjustments for Special Education", that the LFC Subcommittee on Education will be discussing next week. The Office of Public Instruction appreciates the collaborative efforts between our agency and the legislature to serve our special needs Montana students.

This proposed bill would accomplish three primary things:

- Place special education as a part of the definition of BASE aid.
- Modify the calculation for determining the appropriation for special education based on both ANB growth and inflationary CPI increases.
- Assure that if there is a decline in student population in the state that the appropriation will not decline in consideration of maintenance of effort requirements.

The OPI looks forward to participating in your hearing on April 23rd and continued partnership to serve all Montana students. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Thank you for putting Montana students first,

Elsie Arntzen
Superintendent of Public Instruction