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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



OF MONTANA

Thursday, January 20, 2005

Representative Lindeen and members of the House Select Committee on Education Funding,

For the record, my name is Darrell Rud, Executive Director of the School Administrators of Montana.

I would like to start by reiterating SAM's commitment to the guiding principles of the *Montana Quality Education Coalition's Legislative Goals* described below:

**MQEC LEGISLATIVE GOALS**

1. Ensure that every school district receives funding adequate to cover the costs of operating and maintaining quality public elementary and secondary schools. This level of funding must accomplish the following:
  - a. The education being offered in every district meets all standards and laws (federal, state and local) that govern the operation of public schools.
  - b. The educational experience offered must meet the unique needs of all children. This includes at-risk kids, those with special needs, attention to teaching students with limited English proficiency and gifted and talented students.
  - c. School Districts are able to attract and retain quality educators.
2. Meet the constitutional and educational responsibility to provide sufficient resources to meaningfully implement Indian Education for All.
3. Preserve and protect the local control of school decision making as embodied in the constitutional role of elected school trustees.
4. Identify options for new revenue sources to meet these constitutional requirements of a quality public education for every Montana child.
5. Achieve a system that appropriately and equitably distributes the tax burden for the support of public education.

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We also fully support MQEC's Remedy Proposal for immediate relief that includes:

1. K-12 ANB Increase
2. K-12 Statewide Health Insurance Program (SHIP)
3. Quality Schools Task Force—Cost of Education Study
4. Indian Education For All

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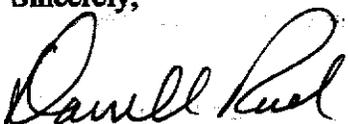
I would also like to distribute to you three documents that highlight quite unique issues with school administrators:

- Administrator Numbers 04-05
  - a.k.a. *OPI Trivia*
- *An Administrator Shortage*
- *Montana School Leaders: Superintendents and Principals, Survey 2001-2002*

SAM would appreciate your review of the above referenced documents as your committee considers all aspects of funding Montana schools in an adequate and equitable manner in line with the Montana Supreme Court's initial order. We would especially appreciate your "open-minded considerations" with respect to the critics of school administration that perpetuate several myths including that school administration is a large bureaucracy diverting critical resources from instruction. Is this perception based on fact? I am finalizing some materials that will be ready shortly that answer some of the common misperceptions about school administration. I will be glad to share them with your committee, as desired!

Thank you for listening and giving SAM the opportunity to share some viewpoints with you!

Sincerely,



Darrell Rud  
Executive Director  
School Administrators of Montana

