

EXHIBIT 12
DATE 01/18/05
HB 2

**House Bill 02
Measurement and Accountability**

The Measurement and Accountability Unit of the Office of Public Instruction provides required and critical non-fiscal data for K-12 education in Montana. An essential function is to gather accreditation and other pertinent information that can be used to assess how Montana schools and students are performing. The data is used to improve student achievement by informing teachers, administrators, and parents so that they may identify and implement appropriate strategies for increased student success.

State Superintendent McCulloch requests 1.00 FTE and \$92,414 in each year of the biennium to extend the ability of the Measurement and Accountability Unit to provide analysis of data to the OPI staff, Montana educators and the public. The analysis will be used to improve instruction for Montana students. It is critical that resources be approved to expand the capacity of this essential function.

**Nancy Coopersmith
Assistant Superintendent
Montana Office of Public Instruction
January 17, 2005**