

POLSON SCHOOLS

DISTRICT NUMBER 23

Senator Don Ryan
Chairman
Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee
P.O. Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
January 11, 2005

SENATE EDUCATION
EXHIBIT NO. 19
DATE 1-14-05
BILL NO. SB-152

Dear Senator Ryan,

Seven or eight years ago, the Polson School District held a series of community forums. Out of the forums came a list of essential skills and knowledge our graduating students should have in place to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The community listed the following components as essential:

- 1) Academics
 - a) Students will demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics, science and social studies.
 - b) Students will be responsible managers of time, money, natural and human resources.
- 2) Problem Solving
 - a) Students will apply knowledge to access, interpret, and evaluate information
 - b) Students will apply knowledge to think critically, creatively, and reflectively in making decisions and solving problems.
- 3) Technology
 - a) Students will know when and how to use technology to access, process, evaluate and communicate information.
 - b) Students will develop the ability to learn and use technology.
- 4) Communication
 - a) Students will apply effective communication skills that lead to positive personal and public interactions.
- 5) Personal Growth
 - a) Students will have the skills to enhance personal growth through self-assessment, goal setting, and career and life planning.
 - b) Students will interact with others using respect, honesty, integrity, and understanding.
 - c) Students will acquire skills and knowledge to make positive choices related to their own physical and mental well-being.

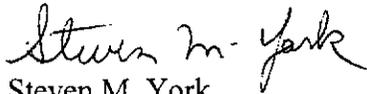
- 6) Arts
 - a) Students will experience that arts for enjoyment, self-expression, learning and cultural appreciation.

- 7) Citizenship
 - a) Students will develop a sense of responsibility to self, family, communities and the environment.
 - b) Students will understand individual and cultural diversity in preparation for work and civic responsibility.

The numerous community members who took the time to participate in the forum series came to agreement that the points listed above are ESSENTIAL in producing a graduate ready to move into the world. It is easy to argue that if something were of quality, it would have its essential parts. The work completed by the Polson community has surely been completed in communities throughout Montana. Therefore, it is efforts such as this that should provide the framework for the Legislature in making the decision as to what is a quality education. Let's hope this sort of input plays an important part of the Legislative decision.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the information I have provided.

Sincerely,



Steven M. York

Principal, Linderman School

President, Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals