

***Resolution re support of concepts in Governor's bill:***

The trustees of Billings Public Schools (BPS) support the following concepts in HB 136, known as the Governor's Bill on Education:

- Establishment of the Teach Montana Special Revenue Account
- The automatic inflationary increase for the Quality Educator Payment
- Renaming the Montana Virtual Academy the Digital Academy, moving the academy to the Office of Public Instruction, and changing membership of the academy board
- Retaining state reimbursement for school facilities through the School Facility & Technology Account
- Appropriation of money to provide grants to high schools for alternative energy projects
- Equity in the distribution to all school districts of oil and natural gas production tax revenue, and the direct deposit from the Department of Revenue into the Teach Montana Account of oil and natural gas proceeds

The trustees recognize that other school funding bills will be introduced. We will review these bills and consider supporting any that contain the above and/or any additional concepts favorable to Billings Public Schools.

Also, the trustees seek further revision of school funding in Montana to 1) award the Basic Entitlement on a per-school rather than per-district basis, 2) eliminate the decremental provisions of the Per-ANB Entitlement so as to provide equal ANB funding for every student, and 3) calculate inflationary increases for entitlements and the Quality Educator Payments so as to reflect current inflation.

We encourage all sponsors of school funding bills to include the concepts and funding revisions outlined above.

*Passed by Billings Public Schools Board of Trustees: January 17, 2010.*