

EXHIBIT 5
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HB 239

Essential Truths About the Great Work of Montana's Public Schools

Jointly Prepared for Public School Advocates by
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HB 239



CORE PURPOSE

The Core Purpose of Montana's Public Schools is as set forth in the Montana Constitution, Article X, Section 1:

"It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person."



CORE VALUES

1. *We honor and hold ourselves and others accountable for compliance with all elements of Article X of the Montana Constitution.*
2. *Shared Authority, Responsibility and Accountability: School districts share authority and responsibility with the state for developing the full educational potential of each student. All are jointly accountable to the public for providing a system of education that is worthy of the goal of the people.*
3. *Equality of Educational Opportunity for All.*
4. *Recognition of and commitment to the preservation of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians in Montana.*

Areas of Focus for the Coming Years

1. Student Success
2. Teaching and Learning
3. Governance, Leadership and Accountability
4. Culture, Climate and Social Values
5. Community Engagement

Envisioned Future

"Montana's K-12 public schools work collaboratively with each other, with state policymakers and with their communities to successfully develop the full potential of every child in Montana through a system that is flexible, adequately and rationally funded, and community-owned."

VIVID DESCRIPTIONS OF SUCCESS

Policymakers at all levels:

- *Consistently support each community's ownership of its public schools and each district's ability to meet student needs.*
- *Support the resources needed by Montana's public schools to fully develop the educational potential of each student educated in Montana's public schools.*

Montana's public school districts are focused, adaptable, innovative, engaging, and driven to help every student succeed by consistently:

- *Ensuring that public school students' knowledge and skills match contemporary needs.*
- *Using technology to link each student to the world in which they will learn and succeed.*
- *Designing, updating and operating in facilities that enhance learning.*
- *Engaging families, the community and each other to meet the needs of every student.*
- *Driving the design and use of effective data systems to support and enhance each student's success.*

As a result of the support of policymakers and the leadership of Montana's public school districts, Montana's public school students:

- *Think critically and engage as responsible citizens.*
- *Succeed without regard to circumstances of life that could otherwise interfere in achievement of their full potential.*
- *Use the knowledge and skills they develop in Montana's public schools to succeed in whatever future they choose and wherever they go.*