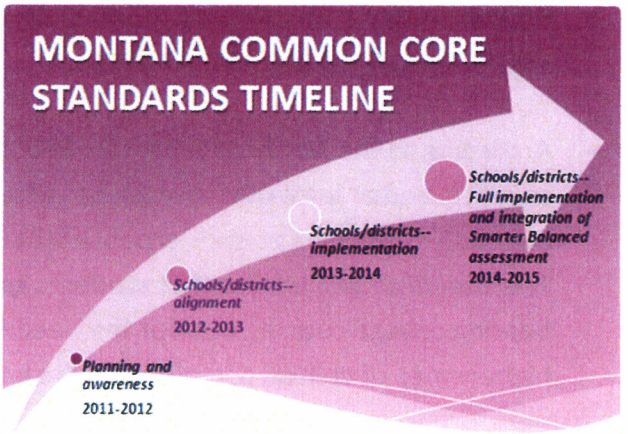
EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2-4-13
HB Office of Public Instruction

Montana's Common Core Standards

Information for Legislators

WHAT ARE THE COMMON CORE STANDARDS?

The Common Core Standards are a set of high-quality academic expectations that define both the knowledge and skills all students should master by the end of each grade level in order to be on track for success in college and career.



- Created through a **state-led initiative** and adopted by 46 states, including Montana.
- Provide a **clear roadmap** of academic expectations so that students, parents, and teachers can work together toward shared goals.
- Are **academically rigorous**, **attainable** for students and **practical** for teachers and districts.
- Establish **consistent** learning goals for all students – regardless of where they live – so that children will stay on track in school when moving across town, from town to town, or from one state to another.
- Are **relevant to the real world**, focusing on the knowledge and skills students will need to succeed in life after high school, in both post-secondary education and a globally competitive workforce.
- Provide **a solid foundation in mathematics** at every grade level that builds towards success in algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.
- In addition to literature, the new standards include more non-fiction reading, require evidence-based writing and **build critical thinking and communication** skills.
- Montana's Common Core Standards include our state's **Indian Education for All** constitutional mandate.

IMPLEMENTING THE STANDARDS IN MONTANA

Significant efforts are underway in Montana to bring the Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS) into our classrooms.

- Montana has joined the SMARTER Balanced Assessment Consortium as a **Governing State**.
- The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is **providing guidance for schools and tools to support the implementation** of the MCC Standards.
- The OPI is creating electronic and face-to-face **high quality professional development** opportunities for Montana educators that focus on the content knowledge and instructional practices.
- The OPI is working to **build knowledge and infrastructure** within Montana's education community to ensure the long-term success of the MCC Standards.

Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent
opi.mt.gov

January 2013

WHAT DO THE STANDARDS MEAN FOR ME?

- Montana students consistently score in the top 10 states in the nation in reading, math and science. An investment in the success of Common Core implementation will **keep our schools and students performing at the top of the nation.**

- According to the *National Center for Education Statistics*, **20%** of students entering four-year colleges, and at least **40%** of students entering two-year community colleges, must take remedial courses—relearning at their expense what they should have already learned in high school. The standards will **ensure that students graduate from high school prepared to succeed** in credit-bearing college courses without the need for remediation. Over time, lower remediation rates and higher rates of college completion will save the state and families money.

- By the year 2018, it is estimated that 62 percent of jobs in Montana will require some postsecondary education. (Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce) The standards will **boost Montana's long-term economic competitiveness** because students will graduate high school with real-world skills they need to be successful in college and the workforce.

- The Common Core Standards, because they are "common" to 46 states, will **cut costs over time** by enabling states and local school districts to share best practices and streamline efforts in related areas, such as assessment development, which otherwise would require a much greater investment in time and resources from each individual state.

- State education agencies and districts will **require initial funding** to support the transition to the standards, particularly in the areas of technology, professional development for teachers, and raising awareness of the standards among parents, districts, school leaders and teachers.

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