



Kalispell Public Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT	ASST. SUPERINTENDENT	HUMAN RESOURCES	SPECIAL PROJECTS
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DATE 1/23/13
 SB 14

January 23, 2013

Senators,

I am Dan Zorn, the assistant superintendent of the Kalispell Public Schools. I come before you today in support of providing ANB funding for 19 year olds. Our district is one of many districts in our state that are a part of the statewide "Graduation Matters Montana" efforts. Our district has invested a great amount of time and resources to create effective dropout prevention strategies. These strategies include expanded remediation, credit retrieval and many academic intervention efforts. We presently are operating two alternative high schools and a "Transition Center" in a partnership with the Flathead County Juvenile Probation Office to meet the needs of our students who struggle to be successful in a traditional high school environment.

Each year, we serve approximately 5-10 students who are over 19 years of age for whom we receive no funding. The reasons for their need of additional time are as varied as the students we serve. Providing the ANB funding as outlined in Senate Bill 14 would make our task in serving these students more feasible and allow us to more actively "retrieve" students who have previously dropped out. Our district has historically displayed a commitment to assist our "at-risk" students in graduating from high school. Providing ANB funding for 19 year olds supports these efforts through helping us provide the resources necessary to address the needs of students who need more than 4 years to complete their high school education.

I ask for your support of this bill and greatly appreciate your service to the people of Montana. Thank you and don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Daniel R. Zorn, Ed.D.
 Assistant Superintendent of Schools
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