

Opponent to Senate Bill 81

Date: January 28, 2013

Public Education is just that; a publicly funded entity that provides equal access to all students. The taxpayers of Montana fund schools to provide an equal opportunity for education to all eligible students.

Given the nature of public funding, there should be an expectation of public accountability. Any school funded with public funds that provides education services, should be held to same standards as all public schools, which includes:

- Provision of licensed and highly qualified staff
- Meeting state accreditation requirements
- Input and accountability for their budget and finances to the public
- Oversight by elected representatives from the community
- Accountability to share their test scores for all students in a public format
- Equal access for all students, no matter their academic ability, gender, ethnicity, and medical or psychological needs

Our communities work diligently, with leadership starting at the local elected level, to provide an equitable opportunity for all students to engage in the academic process. The positive outcomes in Kalispell School District are clearly represented by the attached data. We provide a high quality education to all students at a consistent cost. We are highly transparent in our processes and our finances and firmly believe that is our "charter." Any entity that accepts public education funds or reduces the amount of public funds available on a per student basis should be held to those same expectations. I am highly confident that our public schools can compete locally, statewide, nationally and internationally if we all schools are held to same access and expectations. I am rightfully proud of our students, staff and trustees and do not believe that a parallel education system will enrich our community as a whole.

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On the 2011 4<sup>th</sup> grade PIRLS international Reading assessment, Florida's performance was compared to all other nations in the sample. On this assessment, ZERO nations scored higher than Florida. So.... it is safe to conclude that Florida's 4th graders are among the best readers in the world.

On the 2011 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP Reading assessment Montana's average score was identical to Florida's. So....it is safe to conclude that Montana's 4<sup>th</sup> graders are among the best readers in the World.

On Montana's 2012 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Assessment Kalispell's proficiency percentage was 9% higher than the average proficiency percentage in Montana. So.... It is very safe to conclude that Kalispell's 4<sup>th</sup> graders are among the very best readers in the world.

<b>2011 4<sup>th</sup> Grade PIRLS International Reading Assessment</b>	<b>2011 4<sup>th</sup> Grade NAEP National Reading Assessment</b>	<b>2012 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Montana Reading Assessment</b>
Florida's students ranked #1 in the World	Montana had the identical score as Florida	Kalispell's proficiency level was 9% above the state average

On the 2011 4<sup>th</sup> grade TIMMS international Science assessment, Florida's performance was compared to all other nations in the sample. On this assessment, 4 nations scored higher than Florida. So.... it is safe to conclude that Florida's 4th grade Science scores were among the highest in the world.

On the 2011 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP Science assessment Montana's average score was 9 points higher than Florida's. So....it is safe to conclude that Montana's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Science scores were among the highest in the world.

On Montana's 2012 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Assessment Kalispell's proficiency percentage was 14% higher than the average proficiency percentage in Montana. So.... It is very safe to conclude that Kalispell's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Science scores are among the very best in the world.

<b>2011 4<sup>th</sup> Grade TIMMS International Science Assessment</b>	<b>2011 4<sup>th</sup> Grade NAEP National Science Assessment</b>	<b>2012 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Montana Science Assessment</b>
4 nations scored higher than Florida	Montana's average score was 9 points higher than Florida.	Kalispell's proficiency level was 14% above the state average

On the 2011 4<sup>th</sup> grade TIMMS international Mathematics assessment, Florida's performance was compared to all other nations in the sample. On this assessment, 6 nations scored higher than Florida. So.... it is safe to conclude that Florida's 4th grade Mathematics scores were among the highest in the world.

On the 2011 4<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP Mathematics assessment Montana's average score was 4 points higher than Florida's. So....it is safe to conclude that Montana's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics scores were among the highest in the world.

On Montana's 2012 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Assessment Kalispell's proficiency percentage was 22% higher than the average proficiency percentage in Montana. So.... It is very safe to conclude that Kalispell's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics scores are among the very best in the world.

<b>2011 4<sup>th</sup> Grade TIMMS International Mathematics Assessment</b>	<b>2011 4<sup>th</sup> Grade NAEP National Mathematics Assessment</b>	<b>2012 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Montana Mathematics Assessment</b>
6 nations scored higher than Florida	Montana's average score was 4 points higher than Florida.	Kalispell's proficiency level was 22% above the state average

On the 2011 8<sup>th</sup> grade TIMMS international Science assessment, Massachusetts' performance was compared to all other nations in the sample. On this assessment, 1 nation scored higher than Massachusetts. So.... it is safe to conclude that Massachusetts' 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science scores were among the highest in the world.

On the 2011 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP Science assessment Montana's average score was 2 points higher than Massachusetts'. So....it is safe to conclude that Montana's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science scores were among the highest in the world.

On Montana's 2012 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Assessment Kalispell's proficiency percentage was 13% higher than the average proficiency percentage in Montana. So.... It is very safe to conclude that Kalispell's 4<sup>th</sup> grade Science scores are among the very best in the world.

<b>2011 4<sup>th</sup> Grade TIMMS International Science Assessment</b>	<b>2011 4<sup>th</sup> Grade NAEP National Science Assessment</b>	<b>2012 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Montana Science Assessment</b>
1 nation scored higher than Massachusetts	Montana's average score was 2 points higher than Florida.	Kalispell's proficiency level was 13% above the state average

On the 2011 8<sup>th</sup> grade TIMMS international Mathematics assessment, Minnesota's performance was compared to all other nations in the sample. On this assessment, 6 nations scored higher than Massachusetts. So.... it is safe to conclude that Minnesota's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics scores were among the highest in the world.

On the 2011 8<sup>th</sup> grade NAEP Mathematics assessment Montana's average score was 2 points lower than Minnesota's. So....it is safe to conclude that Montana's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics scores were among the highest in the world.

On Montana's 2012 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Assessment Kalispell's proficiency percentage was 8% higher than the average proficiency percentage in Montana. So.... It is very safe to conclude that Kalispell's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematics scores are among the best in the world.

<b>2011 8<sup>th</sup> Grade TIMMS International Mathematics Assessment</b>	<b>2011 8<sup>th</sup> Grade NAEP National Mathematics Assessment</b>	<b>2012 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Montana Mathematics Assessment</b>
6 nations scored higher than Minnesota	Montana's average score was 2 points lower than Minnesota.	Kalispell's proficiency level was 8% above the state average