

**PROPOSAL FOR RESEARCH PROJECT TO SUPPORT  
QUALIFIED TEACHER AND STAFF COMPENSATION STUDY  
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There is one aspect of teachers compensation that often gets overlooked, namely that many states have state teacher (and other k-12 educator) salary scales which impose mandatory legal floors.

I have access to a number of very good law student interns and also have done a number of 50-state statutory research projects in connection with my Law School Advanced Legislation course drafting bills for the Legislature. (One of my former students in this course drafted a bill that served as a model for the quality basic education bill enacted this past session). I have been teaching K-12 finance in my Education Law courses ever since I came to Montana so I have a very good working knowledge of this area of law around the US. Also, in my former private practice I oversaw our law firm's 50-state government relations practice.

I would be willing to oversee the research of all the US state statutes and regulations that set K-12 educator compensation. I could find 1-2 interns at \$11-12 per hour and have the work finished by the end of August if we start by July 1. It would be useful to do this because we can then determine how other states do or do not set compensation by state law and see how they do so. I would not charge for my time but would hire 2 legal interns who would work full time for 2 months, prepare a report, and then present it. My tentative estimate for this work would be about \$8,000.

One other activity we could take on for some additional money would be an analysis of the various school finance court cases in other states which address teacher compensation as part of a constitutional right to the kind of education Montana requires. My estimate is that this would require a few thousand dollars of additional work.