

**** Joint Resolution No. ****

Introduced By *****

By Request of the Education and Local Government Interim
Committee

A Joint Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana urging the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education to work with the Education and Local Government Interim Committee on developing K-12 shared policy goals and accountability measures that can be used by legislators, the education community, and the public to evaluate progress toward the goals and by the Montana Legislature to guide its funding decisions.

WHEREAS, Article VIII, section 12, of the Montana constitution vests the Legislature with the responsibility to ensure strict accountability of all revenue received and spent by the state, counties, cities, and all other local governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 9, of the Montana constitution states that the Board of Public Education shall exercise general supervision over the public school system; and

WHEREAS, 20-3-106, MCA, grants general supervision of the public schools and districts of the state to the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, agencies of the education community have

increasingly, and to positive effect, shared leadership between themselves and with their counterpart Education and Local Government Interim Committee; and

WHEREAS, agreement upon shared policy goals and accountability measures for the K-12 public education system, signed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education, and Education and Local Government Interim Committee, would represent an important advance in inter-agency cooperation and the quality of education policymaking; and

WHEREAS, shared policy goals must be systematically tied to accountability measures in order to ensure timely and effective implementation of policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

(1) That shared policy goals and corresponding accountability measures be developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and Board of Public Education in consultation with the Education and Local Government Interim Committee.

(2) That the goals and measures focus on K-12 efforts to:

(a) improve graduation rates, including those of Native Americans; and

(b) promote the global competitiveness of Montana students, particularly in math and science; and

(c) improve the affordability and availability of distance learning; and

(d) establish a statewide K-12 student database system.

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