

## ***Special Alert!***

### **FUNDING FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE**

#### **GREAT NEWS FOR MONTANA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS MTSBA AND OPI COLLABORATE ON A MODEL POLICY FOR ENROLLMENT AND FUNDING OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF FIVE WHEN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES EXIST**

MTSBA is thrilled to announce that, in collaboration with OPI, we have developed a model policy (Policy 3100) --Student Enrollment, Exceptional Circumstances Meriting Waiver of Age Requirements for Pupils. This model policy allows Montana's public schools to enroll children under the age of 5 in a kindergarten program when it is determined by the Board that the statutory "exceptional circumstances" criteria are met on an individualized basis and/or when there is data to support demographic characteristics that meet the criteria stated in the policy. As noted in the Model Policy, Districts are prohibited from using this policy to provide what is otherwise characterized or referred to as a pre-school program. We wanted to get this Model Policy out to our members so that you have time to discuss for possible adoption prior to the start of school in the fall. Please pay particular attention to the notes included in the policy for guidance on the consideration of this Model Policy.

Through our collaboration with OPI, we have an assurance from OPI that they will recognize students enrolled under this policy for purposes of ANB related funding in accordance with Montana law. A big "Thank You" to Dennis Parman, Assistant Superintendent of Public Instruction, and to the OPI staff for their work on this.

If you have any questions regarding this policy, please contact Joe Brott or Debra Silk. You should also plan on attending MTSBA's 3rd Annual Negotiations and Policy Symposium in Helena on July 21 and 22 as we will be discussing this policy as part of this training.

Policy 3100, Student Enrollment, Exceptional Circumstances Meriting Waiver of Age Requirements for Pupils, is attached.