School Funding Interim Commission
Helena, Montana

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School District Consolidation

• Issues with consolidation:
  – Unpopular with the public
  – Can result in elimination of neighborhood schools
  – Does not always result in reduced costs
  – Often issues with employees salaries/benefits and work rules

• If school district consolidation does not include school closure – districts can only expect savings in certain programs including: administration, food services, purchasing and transportation
School District Consolidation

- States that have mandated school district consolidation over the past decade (Arkansas and Maine) with mixed results.

- The belief by some states is that you can produce cost savings by mandating shared services (Maine’s new program and Vermont).
Montana’s school district system (Elementary, High School and unified K-12 districts) makes the issue of consolidation even more complicated.

The majority of states make use of only unified districts – the exceptions are New England states and Arizona, California, Illinois, Montana and New Jersey.
Contact Us

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