

Options A, B, and C in PD 0018: Establishing State-funded Preschool

prepared for the Education Interim Committee by Pad McCracken, Committee Staff, August 2020

The preschool bill draft, PD 0018, reflects the committee's direction from its June meeting that staff develop a bill draft establishing state-funded preschool for 4-year-olds that utilizes the school funding formula and authorizes/encourages local school district trustees to form collaborative partnerships with existing community-based providers and Head Starts. Pages 9-12 of the draft include three options (A, B, and C) for the committee to consider that show different ways in which the local collaborations could be structured and quality assured. The various elements in each option are certainly not exhaustive and can be interchanged or recombined. They are meant to be a starting point to move this conversation forward. This table may help explain their similarities and differences. The highlighting of the column headings in this table reflects the highlighting in the draft.

| Common elements to all three options | Options (pages 9-12) | Local collaboration | State-level collaboration | Quality Assurance for contractors | Other |
|--|----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Utilize school funding formula; allow participating 4yos to be included in ANB LEG intent for local collaboration Districts authorized to contract with HS and community providers Trustees supervise all programs Programs cannot charge tuition during publicly funded portion of day | A | Encouraged | Silent | Programs meet requirements of 20-5-109: Health and safety Attendance Aggregate hours Basic instructional program | |
| | B | Requires establishment of local collaborative team | BPE, OPI, DPHHS encouraged to collaborate and support implementation | Programs provided in accordance with BPE's Chapter 63 Preschool Accreditation Standards | Programs provided in accordance with Art X, Sec 7 of MT Constitution (nondiscrimination and no indoctrination in public schools) |
| | C | Requires establishment of local collaborative team (same as Option B) | BPE, OPI, DPHHS required to collaborate and support implementation | Head Starts meet all federal HS standards Community-based providers need to be STAR 3 | Programs must not discriminate or indoctrinate |