

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.5643
In-State Toll-free: 1.888.231.9393
TTY Users: 406.444.0235
opi.mt.gov

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A+**



June 17, 2020

Montana Legislative Services Division
ATTN: Education Interim Committee
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Chairman Anderson,

The Office of Public Instruction offers the below topics for agency legislative proposals for the 2021 Legislative Session. I respectfully request the Education Interim Committee's approval to pursue legislation in the below areas on behalf of Montana's students and educators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elsie Arntzen".

Elsie Arntzen
Superintendent of Public Instruction

2021 OPI Agency Legislation Requests

- MCA 20-9-368: Special Education appropriation to become part of BASE Aid to ensure stable funding for our at-risk students (Legislative Finance Committee subcommittee on Education): 2023 Biennium = \$5.21 million these assume inflationary increases of FY22 = 2.16% & FY23 2.26% and are subject to change once the CPI is set in July.
- MCA 20-7-403: Funding for education of children in in-state children's psychiatric hospitals and residential treatment programs (Legislative Finance Committee subcommittee on Education): 2023 Biennium: \$1.6 million
- MCA 20-9-314/534: Updates to the Broadband for Montana Schools program including extending the sunset date for utilization of existing funds and alternative methods of administration to better serve schools (Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee)

- MCA 20-7-1602: Adjustments to the Transformational Learning Act
- MCA 20-1-101: Definition of student proficiency and pupil
- MCA 20-7-305/320: Increase student engagement in Career and Technical Student Organizations
- MCA 20-9-323: Establishing ending fund balance limits
- MCA 20-9-310: Allow nonoperating districts to retain oil and gas revenue
- MCA 20-9-310: Allowability of using school safety and major maintenance funds for new DPHHS/DEQ ARM mandates
- MCA 20-9-314: Funding related to anticipated enrollment increases