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# Education Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

## SENATE MEMBERS

EDIE MCCLAFFERTY - Chair  
SHANNON O'BRIEN  
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RUSSEL TEMPEL

## HOUSE MEMBERS

FRED ANDERSON – Vice Chair  
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ED HILL  
SARA NOVAK  
LINDA REKSTEN  
TYSON RUNNING WOLF

## COMMITTEE STAFF

PAD MCCracken, Lead Staff  
LAURA SANKEY KEIP, Staff Attorney  
BETHANY MCDOWELL, Secretary

## DRAFT AGENDA

### Education Interim Committee

March 14-15, 2022

Room 317, Montana Capitol, and via Zoom

Note: Agenda times are approximate. Some agenda items may require more or less time than indicated.

### Monday, March 14

- 10:30 a.m. Call to order - roll call - review agenda - Chair McClafferty
- 10:40 HJ 47 study of educational programs for the incarcerated
- Review HJ 47 and committee work so far - Pad
  - Legislative Audit update – Will Soller, Deputy Legislative Auditor
  - Promising practices in other states
    - Sean Addie, Director of Correctional Education, US Dept of Ed
    - Heather Gay, Director of Education, Michigan DOC
    - Traci Hightower, Director of Education, Oregon DOC
  - Committee questions/discussion
  - Public comment
  - Committee action, if any; direction to staff/next steps
- Noon Lunch (lunch provided for committee members)
- 1:00 Educator recruitment and retention – what's in the policy toolbox?
- Tara Kini, State Policy Director, Learning Policy Institute
  - Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program, expanding eligibility – Pad
  - HB 143 – incentives to increase starting teacher pay – TBD, OPI
  - Teacher residency demonstration projects – Sharyl Allen, OPI
- 1:45 K-12 employee health benefits: what about including school employees in the state plan? – Misty Ann Giles, Director, Department of Administration; Amy Jenks, Administrator, Health Care & Benefits Division
- 2:15 OPI perspective on school districts operating schools outside district boundaries

- 2:30 CSCT, how is the new system working? – OPI and DPHHS
- 2:45 School food follow-up, agency plans/thoughts on applying for P-EBT and Medicaid Direct Certification for Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility – OPI and DPHHS
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Transformational learning panel on progress made by district grantees
- Heather Jarrett, Superintendent, Reed Point Schools
  - Don Christman, Assistant Superintendent, Lockwood School District
  - Heather Hoyer, Assistant Superintendent, Great Falls Public Schools
  - Laurie Barron, Superintendent, Evergreen School District
  - Committee questions/discussion
- 4:15 Tribal Computer Programming Boost Scholarship Program (HB 644) implementation updates from OPI and DLI
- 4:30 Ch 55 update and timeline – Dr. Julie Murgel, OPI
- 4:45 Administrative rule review/litigation update – Laura
- 5:00 Public Comment\* on any topic within the committee's jurisdiction
- 5:15 Review Tuesday agenda - recess for the day

**Tuesday, March 15 – Joint session with the Education Interim Budget Committee**

- 8:30 a.m. Convene – Chairs Bedey and McClafferty
- 8:35 National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE) and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) presentation on K-12 Education Redesign
- Jason Dougal, President and COO, NCEE
  - Michelle Exstrom, Education Program Director, NCSL
- 10:00 Break
- 10:15 Kindergarten readiness – various topics
- Waterford Upstart program, overview and outcomes – Rich Stombres, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, Waterford
  - 5-year trend numbers on 3-4 year olds enrolled/ANB and districts offering early kindergarten under exceptional circumstances – Paul Taylor, OPI
  - State special education preschool funding – Pad
  - Public comment
  - Committee discussion

- 11:30 Montana State Library and Montana Library Association presentation
- 12:00 Lunch break (lunch provided for committee members)
- 1:00 Montana Digital Academy
  - Enrollment update
  - Update on school district fees
  - Status of the development of new courses funded by the 2021 Legislature
- 2:00 Board of Public Education (BPE) and Office of Public Instruction (OPI) input on the accreditation process bill draft
- 2:30 OPI Data Modernization Project (details on the licensing system module as well as all other modules included in this information technology project)
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Implications of CI-121 on school funding
- 4:15 Modeling Future Education Expenses
- 4:45 Public Comment\* on any topic within the committee's jurisdiction
- 5:00 Committee discussion – directions to staff
- 5:15 Adjourn

**Please note:**

- All meeting materials are available on the committee website at <https://leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/eic/>
- To offer public comment via Zoom during the meeting, please submit the [online form for remote participation](#) by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 21. You will receive an email with the login information by midnight the night before the meeting. At the time specified on the agenda for public comment, the presiding officer will call for public comment from people attending in person and people attending via Zoom. The committee may be slightly ahead of or behind the time scheduled for public comment on the agenda.
- Written public comment may be submitted either through the [online form for written comment](#) or by sending the comments to Pad McCracken, P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.
- Public comment provided in person at a committee meeting is a public record that is recorded, archived, and available on the Internet. Public comment submitted in writing at a committee meeting is a public record that will be posted to the legislative website as part of the minutes log for the committee meeting.
- The Montana Legislative Services Division will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this public meeting. For questions about accessibility or to request accommodations, please contact Jessica James at 406-444-3267 or [jessica.james@mt.gov](mailto:jessica.james@mt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.