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# Education Interim Committee

68th Montana Legislature

## SENATE MEMBERS

DANIEL EMRICH  
JOHN FULLER  
EDIE MCCLAFFERTY - Vice Chair  
DANIEL SALOMON - Chair

## HOUSE MEMBERS

LINDA REKSTEN  
MELISSA ROMANO  
KERRI SEEKINS-CROWE  
SUE VINTON

## COMMITTEE STAFF

PAD MCCRACKEN, Lead Staff  
LAURA SANKEY KEIP, Staff Attorney  
BETHANY MCDOWELL JAMES, Secretary

## DRAFT AGENDA Education Interim Committee March 11-12, 2024 Room 317, State Capitol (including joint meeting with the Education Interim Budget Committee)

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

### Site visit

*The committee will visit Central Elementary School in Helena during the morning on Monday March 11. This visit is limited to committee members and confirmed guests -- space is limited. Guests must register by noon on March 7. If you wish to participate, please contact Pad McCracken (406-444-3595 or [pad.mccracken@legmt.gov](mailto:pad.mccracken@legmt.gov)).*

### Monday, March 11

- 1:00 p.m. Call to order – roll call – Chairman Salomon
- 1:05 Administrative Rule Review – Laura Sankey Keip
- 1:15 Montana University System updates
- 2:00 4-day school week
- Data on Montana Schools – Dr. Julie Murgel, Chief Program Officer, OPI
  - What does the research say? – Ashley Wallace, National Conference of State Legislatures (via Zoom)
  - Panel discussion – Rob Pederson, Superintendent, Plentywood Schools; Luke Kloker, Superintendent, Fairview School; Larry Crowder, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)
  - Public Comment
  - Questions/discussion
- 3:00 Break

- 3:15 Recruitment and Retention
- Mentoring/Induction and Teacher Apprenticeships – Lauren Peisach, Policy Researcher, Education Commission of the States (via Zoom)
  - HB 833 Teacher Residency Program update – Krystal Smith, Education Innovation Manager, OPI
  - Questions/discussion
- 4:30 HB 408 – education tax credits
- Department of Revenue updates– Tony Zammit, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel
  - Distribution of excess donations – Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, OPI
- 5:00 Public comment
- 5:15 Next meeting agenda – directions to staff – recess until 8:00 a.m. Tuesday

### **Tuesday, March 12 - Joint meeting with the Education Interim Budget Committee**

- 8:00 a.m. Call to order – roll call
- 8:05 Litigation update – Laura Sankey Keip, LSD Staff Attorney
- HB 393 – Special Needs Education Savings Accounts
  - HB 562 – Community Choice Schools
- 8:15 Review status and implementation of 2023 legislation (public comment and committee discussion will follow each)
- HB 332 – school health trust update – Senators Salomon and McClafferty
  - HB 203 – "open enrollment" and HB 214 – remote learning/offsite instruction
    - Review/compare/contrast bills – Pad
    - MASBO – input/questions/concerns from the field
    - OPI implementation and guidance to school districts – Rob Stutz, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Legal Counsel, OPI
  - HB 338 – Indian Education for All update
    - Review bill – Pad
    - Board of Public Education role – McCall Flynn, Executive Director, BPE
    - OPI implementation and guidance to school districts – Rob Stutz, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Legal Counsel, and Zach Hawkins, Director of Indian Education for All, OPI
  - HB 352 – early literacy targeted interventions
    - Review bill – Laura
    - Implementation and guidance to school districts – McCall Flynn, Executive Director, BPE, and Christy Mock-Stutz, Assistant Superintendent, OPI

- HB 549 – public charter schools
    - Overview of program – Pad
    - Update on charters approved and status of charter contracts – McCall Flynn, Executive Director, BPE
    - OPI implementation and guidance to school districts – Rob Stutz, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Legal Counsel
    - Improvements/clarifications to HB 549
- 11:15 School funding technical clean-up – Pad and Paul Taylor, OPI
- 11:45 Legislative Audit Division update – Chelsea Rayfield, LAD
- Noon Lunch (provided for committee members)
- 1:00 p.m. School funding – LFD BI tool demonstration – Julia Pattin, LFD (time certain; the MARA committee has been invited to Zoom in for the demo)
- 1:30 State Policies to Encourage Educational Innovation and Increase Student Achievement – Dr. Ashley Berner, Director, Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy (via Zoom)
- 2:30 TEACH Act
  - Department of Labor and Industry teacher salary data gathering – TBD
  - TEACH Act basics - Pad
  - TEACH Act data for FY 2025 – Jay Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, OPI
  - Public comment
  - Committee discussion
- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 Accreditation Standards – revision process under 20-7-101 updates – McCall Flynn, Executive Director, BPE, and Dr. Julie Murgel, Chief Program Officer, OPI
- 4:00 Constitutional Players discussion
  - Review previous convenings, priorities identified, and progress made
  - Discuss potential convening on June 17 and areas of focus – input from representatives of the Constitutional Players invited
  - Public comment
  - Committee discussion
- 4:45 Public Comment
- 5:00 Adjourn

\*Public comment provided in person to the committee is a public record that is videotaped, 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@legmt.gov](mailto:jessica.james@legmt.gov) as soon as possible before the meeting date.