

9/10/2021



Introduction to the Navigator Newsletter

We at the OPI strive to keep legislators informed of projects and legislation with updates that include relevant information and events. Keeping up to date is necessary to best support the people of Montana, and the children of Montana in uncertain times. It is hoped that a brief newsletter will be useful to our legislators.

The OPI Navigator Newsletter will be published every 6 weeks going forward. The next edition is scheduled to be published October 15th, we look forward to improving it based on feedback from those who readers who found the newsletter helpful.

Thank you for your time.

School Law Conference Set November 17-18

The OPI is excited to announce the Montana School Law Conference. The conference is scheduled for November 17th and 18th of this year. The conference is designed for school administrators, school board members, and those interested in the current legal issues facing education. Sessions will include current federal topics, use of federal funds for public and non-public schools, innovative assessment, parental rights, discipline of students, progressive discipline, special education, and much, much more. There are several partners who will be participating to ensure this conference is relevant to the issues facing educators today.

Purple Star Award nominations: Now Accepted

When talking to your constants about military issues, know that the OPI and the Montana Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) want to recognize Montana's Purple Star Schools and Purple Star Champions. These <u>Purple Star Awards</u> are to distinguish schools and champions that have gone above and beyond for our military children and their families. Nominations for both awards will be accepted from now through October 31st; awardees will be announced on November 30th.



Comprehensive School and Community Treatment Program (CSCT): House Bill 671

The CSCT program established in 2005, was moved from DPHHS in the 2021 Legislative Session and placed with the OPI along with *all* Medicaid and CHIP services in schools. CSCT has been a school-based health services for students with serious emotional challenges and used an in-kind matching program for years. In 2016, the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) determined that the method by which Montana accounted for the match would no longer be approved.

By 2019, DPHHS used State General funds for the match. In the 2021 Legislative Session, that match was discontinued due to sustainability issues. A new challenge was determining methods available for the matching funds. The match must be non-federal funds, and the burden falls on school districts. The Legislature provided ~\$2 million in bridge funding while DPHHS seeks approval of a state plan amendment. A new state plan has been crafted and submitted for approval under House Bill 671.

The OPI and DPHHS have signed an MOU. The legislative provided Bridge funding expended as of the end of August was \$421,687.78.

House Bill 671 By

D. BEDEY

Legislation

SB 157

Qualified Students Attending a Non-Public or Home School Participating in extracurricular Activities in the Resident School District.

Introduced By

S HINEBAUCH

Brief Description

Senate Bill 157 allows students who are not enrolled in a public school to participate in extracurricular activities offered by the students resident educational district. The legislation applies to all K-12 extracurricular activities and permits students who are not enrolled in their local school to to engage in extracurricular activities in their district. The Senate Bill provides definitions for qualifying students that can be seen in the guidance document published by OPI.

Effective Date

July 1st, 2021

SB 72

School Districts May Use Eligible Extracurricular Activities in Calculating ANB for Non-Enrolled or Partially Enrolled Students.

Introduced By

K. REGIER

Brief Description

Senate Bill 72, is designed to amend Mont. Code An. §20-9-311 to clarify legislation and provide definitions. SB 72 assists in clarification of participation, enrollment, and methods for counting the Average Number Belonging (ANB) for participating students. SB 72 allows students not enrolled in public school to participate in extracurricular activities offered and provides definitional documentation. SB 72 also provides methods for reporting Achievements in Montana (AIM), and provide support for data that may be requested by the OPI.

Effective Date

July 1st 2021

House Bills 207, 267, and 300

The OPI is working to clarify House Bills <u>207</u>, <u>267</u>, and <u>300</u>, regard busing and busses. The OPI is working with local communities to administratively define the bills and clarify language.

House Bill 207

An Act Revising Laws Related to School Bus Lighting; Authorizing the Use of Additional Flashing Red Lights on School Buses; Amending Sections 20-10-11 and 61-9-402, MCA; and Providing an Immediate Effective Date.

Introduced By

N. DURAM

House Bill 264

A Bill for an Act Entitled: "An Act Generally Revising Laws Related to Approach and Passing School Busses; Prohibiting a Motor Vehicle from Overtaking a Stopped School Bus on the Right; Requiring Certain Signage; Prohibiting a School Bus from Actually Flashing Red Lights when the Bus is Stopped Outside of the Roadway to Recieve or Discharge School Children; Requiring Use of Extended Stop Arms; Requiring School District Trustees to Approve Each Bus Stop That Requires a School Child to Cross the Street; Requiring a Person Who Observers Certain Violations to Report the violation to the County Shariff; Providing Penalties; and Amending Sections 61-8-301 and 61-8-351, MCA.

Introduced By

N. DURAM

House Bill 300

Efficiency Fund for Discretionary Expenses; Providing for Distribution of Nonlevy Revenue to Local control and Efficiency Funds of Certain Districts; Providing for a Study by the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee; Providing an Appropriation; Providing Transition Sections; Providing Rulemaking; Amending Sections 1-2-112, 1-2-113, 2-2-121, 2-7-503, 2-7-514, 2-9-211, 2-9-212, 2-9-316, 2-16-117, 2-18-703, 7-1-112, 7-1-114, 7-1-2103, 7-1-4123, 7-2-2730, 7-2-2745, 7-2-2746, 7-2-2747, 7-2-2749, 7-2-2751, 7-2-2759, 7-2-2807, 7-2-4625, 7-2-4918, 7-3-175, 7-3-184, 7-3-1104, 7-3-1223, 7-3-1230, 7-3-1313, 7-3-4312, 7-4-2504, 7-5-131, 7-6-502, 7-6-621, 7-6-1502, 7-6-1506, 7-6-2501, 7-6-2511, 7-6-2512, 7-6-2513, 7-6-2527, 7-6-4020, 7-6-4034, 7-6-4431, 7-6-4438, 7-7-105, 7-7-121, 7-7-2206, 7-7-2264, 7-7-2302, 7-7-4264, 7-7-4302, 7-7-4424, 7-8-2306, 7-10-115, 7-11-104, 7-11-1003, 7-11-1029, 7-12-1132, 7-12-2105, 7-12-2151, 7-12-2182, 7-12-2185, 7-12-2203, 7-12-4104, 7-12-4106, 7-12-4161, 7-12-4162, 7-12-4222, 7-12-4225, 7-12-4252, 7-12-4255. 7-12-4256, 7-12-4337, 7-13-114, 7-13-142, 7-13-144, 7-13-2221, 7-13-2301, 7-13-2302, 7-13-2321, 7-13-2349, 7-13-3027, 7-13-3029, 7-13-3031, 7-13-3043, 7-13-4406, 7-13-4502, 7-14-111, 7-14-1111, 7-14-1131, 7-14-1133, 7-14-1134, 7-14-1632, 7-14-2101, 7-14-2502, 7-14-2801, 7-14-4109, 7-14-4404, 7-14-4644, 7-14-4666, 7-14-4703, 7-14-4712, 7-14-4731, 7-15-4260, 7-15-4279, 7-15-4281, 7-15-4283, 7-15-4284, 7-15-4288, 7-15-4289, 7-15-4290, 7-15-4292, 7-15-4301, 7-15-4324, 7-15-4532, 7-16-101, 7-16-2102, 7-16-2108, 7-16-2109,

7-16-4112, 7-16-4114, 7-21-3203, 7-21-3411, 7-22-2142, 7-22-2306, 7-22-2512, 7-31-116, 7-32-235, 7-32-2141, 7-32-4117, 7-33-2109, 7-33-2120, 7-33-2209, 7-33-2403, 7-33-4109, 7-33-4111, 7-33-4130, 7-34-102, 7-34-2122, 7-34-2131, 7-34-2137, 7-34-2417, 7-34-2418, 7-35-2205, 10-2-115, 10-3-405, 13-1-101, 13-1-504, 15-1-101, 15-1-121, 15-1-123, 15-1-205, 15-1-211, 15-1-303, 15-1-402, 15-2-301, 15-2-302, 15-2-306, 15-6-101, 15-6-122, 15-6-135, 15-6-137, 15-6-138, 15-6-141, 15-6-145, 15-6-156, 15-6-157, 15-6-159, 15-6-215, 15-6-217,15-6-223, 15-6-229, 15-7-101, 15-7-102, 15-7-103, 15-7-106, 15-7-107, 15-7-138, 15-7-139, 15-7-140, 15-7-302, 15-7-308, 15-8-102, 15-8-104, 15-8-111, 15-8-112, 15-8-115, 15-8-301, 15-8-307, 15-8-601, 15-8-701, 15-8-704, 15-8-711, 15-9-103, 15-10-202, 15-10-206, 15-10-305, 15-10-420, 15-15-101, 15-15-104, 15-16-101, 15-16-102, 15-16-203, 15-16-611, 15-16-613, 15-18-112, 15-23-107, 15-23-703, 15-23-807, 15-24-1209, 15-24-1410, 15-24-3001, 15-24-3006, 15-24-3007, 15-39-110, 15-68-101, 15-68-102, 15-68-110, 15-68-201, 15-68-202, 15-68-206, 15-68-207, 15-68-208, 15-68-209, 15-68-210, 15-68-401, 15-68-402, 15-68-405, 15-68-501, 15-68-502, 15-68-505, 15-68-510, 15-68-520, 15-68-801, 15-68-820, 15-70-403, 15-70-419, 17-3-213, 17-3-1003, 17-5-703, 17-7-301, 17-7-502, 19-3-204, 19-7-404, 19-18-501, 19-18-504, 19-19-301, 20-1-101, 20-1-208, 20-3-301, 20-3-106, 20-3-205, 20-3-209, 20-3-324, 20-3-352, 20-3-354, 20-3-363, 20-5-320, 20-5-321, 20-5-322, 20-5-323, 20-6-101, 20-6-105, 20-6-326, 20-6-413, 20-6-422, 20-6-423, 20-6-424, 20-6-503, 20-6-603, 20-6-621, 20-6-702, 20-6-704, 20-7-102, 20-7-420, 20-9-104, 20-9-131, 20-9-151, 20-9-161, 20-9-162, 20-9-168, 20-9-208, 20-9-212, 20-9-231, 20-9-235, 20-9-236, 20-9-306, 20-9-308, 20-9-310, 20-9-314, 20-9-342, 20-9-344, 20-9-347, 20-9-351, 20-9-353, 20-9-380, 20-9-501, 20-9-507, 20-9-620, 20-9-622, 20-9-705, 20-9-904, 20-10-104, 20-10-105, 20-10-112, 20-10-142, 20-10-143, 20-15-102, 20-15-105, 20-15-201, 20-15-221, 20-15-231, 20-15-241, 20-15-301, 20-15-310, 20-15-311, 20-15-312, 20-15-324, 20-15-404, 20-20-105, 22-1-304, 22-1-316, 22-1-326, 22-1-702, 22-1-703, 22-1-707, 22-1-708, 22-1-709, 22-1-711, 23-4-303, 30-20-204, 39-71-403, 41-5-1804, 50-2-111, 53-3-115, 53-3-116, 53-20-208, 53-21-1010, 60-3-201, 61-1-101, 61-3-201, 61-4-310, 61-10-124, 61-10-130, 61-12-206, 61-12-901, 67-3-205, 67-10-402, 67-11-201, 67-11-301, 67-11-302, 67-11-303, 70-1-106, 75-10-112, 76-1-111, 76-1-403, 76-1-404, 76-1-406, 76-2-102, 76-2-205, 76-3-601, 76-5-1113, 76-5-1116, 76-5-1117, 76-6-109, 76-15-501, 76-15-505, 76-15-516, 76-15-518, 76-15-520, 76-15-527, 76-15-531, 76-15-623, 76-15-624, 77-1-208, 77-1-218, 80-12-102, 81-8-504, 85-3-412, 85-3-414, 85-3-415, 85-3-422, 85-3-423, 85-7-306, 85-7-1972, 85-7-2014, 85-7-2016, 85-7-2017, 85-7-2018, 85-7-2101, 85-7-2102, 85-7-2103, 85-7-2104, 85-7-2118, 85-7-2119, 85-7-2132, 85-7-2137, 85-7-2142, 85-8-615, 85-8-617, 85-9-304, 90-5-112, 90-6-304, 90-6-305, 90-6-307, AND 90-6-405, MCA; 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and Providing Effective Dates and an Applicability Date."

Introduced by

K. WHITE

Questions or Feedback?

Email:

Dr. Trenin Bayless, Project Manager 406-444-3449

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