MEETING PROJECT NAME: Education Advocates Meeting  
DATE OF MEETING: March 31, 2020  
TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
Conference Call

ATTENDEES:

PRESENT: As best of our records could show

McCall Flynn, Education Policy Advisor, Governor’s Office  
Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BOPE)  
Dianne Burke, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)  
Kirk Miller, Executive Director of School Administrators of Montana (SAM)  
Pad McCracken, Legislative Services  
Emily Dean, Director of Advocacy, Montana School Boards Association  
Denise Williams, Executive Director, Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)  
Dan Rask, Executive Director, Montana Small Schools Alliance (MSSA)  
Marco Ferro, Public Policy Director, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)  
Julia Platt, Fiscal Analyst II Expenditure Analysis, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)  
Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association  
Dr. Timothy Uhl, Superintendent, Catholic Schools of Montana  
William Parsons, Office of United States Senator Steve Daines

OPI STAFF

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent  
Jason Butcher, Assistant Deputy Superintendent  
Tracy Moseman, Health Enhancement Division Administrator  
Julia Swingley, Chief Legal Counsel  
Dylan Klapmeier, Director of Communications and Federal Regulations  
Jenifer Cline, Student Support Service Division Administrator  
Ken Bailey, Chief Financial Officer  
Michael Sweeney, Chief Data Officer  
Sharyl Allen, Transformational & Personalized Learning Manager

RECORD KEEPER

Christy Perryman, Administrative Clerk, Office of Public Instruction
TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO
CARES Stimulus, Ken Bailey
- Materials Follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO
Deadline Reminders, Dylan Klapmeier
- Materials Follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO
Update of School Plans and SPED, McCall Flynn
- Received a plan from all School Districts
- Call with Governor and County/District Superintendents at 4:00 PM on March 31, 2020
- Schools do have plans to help SPED students online

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO
Other Business
- Superintendent Elsie Arntzen - Next call will be on April 2, 2020 at 10:30 AM
- Tracy Moseman - County Health Departments can and are closing school buildings

Thank you for your patience and **Putting Montana Students First** during this uncertain time.

[Full Education Advocates meeting can be listened to at this link](#)
CCSSO Webinar on COVID-19 (coronavirus)

March 26, 2020
Webinar Reminders

Welcome!

Please turn your camera off to save bandwidth on this call.

Please send questions through the chat feature in WebEx.

Find public resources at ccsso.org/blog/coronavirus

Welcome Remarks

Carissa Moffat Miller
Executive Director
CCSSO
Federal Update: Emergency Supplemental Funding

Peter Zamora
Director, Federal Relations
CCSSO
Emergency Supplemental Funding

CARES Act
Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act

$2 Trillion Emergency Relief Package

- Approved 96-0 in the Senate on March 25
- The House will consider on Friday, March 27 expecting a bipartisan voice vote to approve
- President Trump expected to sign immediately
General Notes

- Extraordinary process
- Relief package, not an education “stimulus package”
- Additional bills may be forthcoming if/when costs rise, revenues decline
- Preserves chiefs’ authority over K-12 in federal law
- K-12 set-aside = largest SEA-level discretionary formula program in history
- Very flexible to respond to emerging needs
Emergency Supplemental Funding

Education Stabilization Fund: $30.75 billion

- 1% ($307 million) for grants to states with highest coronavirus burden
  - ED must release public notice inviting applications w/in 30 days

- $13.5 billion for elementary and secondary education formula grants
  - .5% set-aside for outlying areas and .5% set-aside for BIE schools
  - Federal – state – local by Title I formula (FY19) through SEAs
  - 90% distributed to LEAs by Title I formula
  - SEAs may reserve up to 10% (~$1.35 billion) for grants and statewide emergency needs, including up to 0.5% for admin
  - USED must issue notice inviting applications to SEAs within 30 days and approve SEA applications within 30 days
LEA Uses of K-12 Formula Funds

- Substantial local authority and discretion:
  - Any activities authorized under ESSA, IDEA, Perkins, Subtitle B of McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act
  - Coordinate emergency response
  - Support school leaders
  - Ensure preparedness and coordination
  - Purchase cleaning supplies
  - Purchase education technology
  - Mental health supports
  - Summer learning
  - Etc.
Additional Requirements

- SEA must provide assurance it will maintain support for elementary and secondary education and postsecondary education
  - Waivable by USED

- SEAs and LEAs must “to the greatest extent practicable” continue to pay employees and contractors

- Equitable Participation of Non-Public Schools

- USED may consider additional application and reporting requirements, but should not substantially increase burdens to states and districts
USED Waiver Authority for 2019-20 School Year

*Authorizes streamlined process for SEA waivers of:*
  - Assessments
  - Certain accountability requirements
  - Certain school improvement requirements
  - ESEA report card requirements
  - Periods to obligate federal funds

*Authorizes SEA, tribe, LEA waiver submissions of fiscal LEA issues:*
  - Schoolwide Program poverty threshold
  - Maintenance of Effort
  - Carryover limitations
  - Title IV-A restrictions – including limit on ed tech hardware and broadband supports
  - Certain requirements under Title II-A for professional development
Secretary shall provide a report to Congress within 30 days with recommendations on additional waivers under:

- IDEA
- Rehabilitation Act
- ESSA
- Perkins

Please communicate additional requests for flexibility to CCSSO
Additional Education and Education-Related Funding

• $3 billion for governors education fund
  • Broad discretionary fund for higher education and/or K-12 supports to LEAs that the SEA has deemed most significantly impacted by COVID-19

• $14.25 billion for higher education

• $3.5 billion for the Child Care Development Block Grant
  • To provide child care assistance to health care providers, first responders, sanitation workers, and other essential workers in the response to COVID-19

• $75 million for Head Start

• $8.8 billion for Child Nutrition programs

• $15.5 billion – SNAP (food assistance)

• $100 million – SERV
Emergency Supplemental Funding

Key Education Funding Takeaways

- SEAs will play a major role in targeting emergency funds to highly impacted COVID-19 communities.

- States need to start thinking now about how to distribute these funds in a strategic, efficient, equitable way.

- There will be strict oversight of the ways these funds are spent.

- CCSSO is developing resources to support states in making key spending decisions.
Next Steps

- Urge House of Representatives’ speedy approval of CARES (Friday)
- Advocate with ED for efficient allocations – 60 days max
- Stand up SEA and LEA grants management systems
  - CCSSO will provide strategic and technical guidance and support
- Consider statewide activities strategies, state guidance to LEAs
- Develop approach for broadband and tech deployment if necessary
- “Keep your receipts” of costs, and track effects on state budgets
- Build momentum for additional federal action if/when necessary
QUESTIONS?

To ask a question, please use the WebEx chat feature or email communications@ccsso.org.
**Division Deadlines**  
March 31, 2020

**Assessment:** At this time, the OPI is unaware of any additional reporting required from local education agencies (school districts); however, given this federal waiver process was simplified and expedited to support states, it is possible some statutory and regulatory requirements were not addressed fully in the OPI’s submission. The OPI is still reviewing what additional laws or regulations might need to be waived and request these additional waivers through USED during this novel coronavirus.

**Health Enhancement and Safety:**
- HB 601: they must submit extension, change in scope, or final expenditure report. Request by 6-30-2020.
- STOP Grant: Second Step reporting. Due 4-10-2020, and then due 7-10-2020.

**Accreditation:** Will need corrective plans back by June 1, 2020.

**Title I-V:** E-Grants amendments are due April 10, 2020 (this was a two-week extension)

**School Finance:** No current deadlines; working on School Election.

**CTE:** Perkins Intent to apply April 30, 2020.