

**Putting Montana Students First!**

**68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

**End-of-Session Wrap-Up**

**April 26, 2023**



**Montana**  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
**Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

As Montana State Superintendent, I am grateful for the bright spotlight on parents and teachers, but more importantly students during this 68<sup>th</sup> legislative session. There were a record number of education bills that **put our Montana students first!** As a state agency, with educational experts, we are prepared to champion the implementation of all legislation that affects the education of our K-12 students, parental rights, transparency, notification, and school funding.

As I reflect on my six sessions as a legislator, there are so many issues that get placed on your desk. I am appreciative that school funding was prioritized for our Montana students. March 2<sup>nd</sup> was a great day as the Governor signed the BASE aid funding bill of approximately \$2 billion to fund and maintain stability in our over 400 Montana school districts.

Blessings as you journey home to your family and community. I look forward to seeing you all back during the interim committees. My office stands prepared to offer any assistance you may need.

**Thank you for putting Montana students first in this legislative session!**



**Elsie Arntzen**  
State Superintendent

### **CONTACTS**

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*Keep an eye out for the Navigator to come to your email the first week of each month!*

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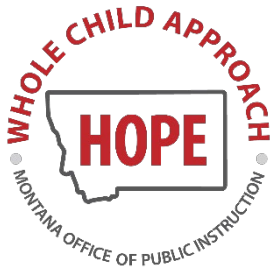
## **EDUCATION IN MONTANA:**

**The below education information is a snapshot in time and the most up-to-date. For more detailed information please visit OPI's website, [opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov).**

- A quality public education system is a value that is enshrined in Article X of Montana's Constitution.
- Funding for education is the single largest appropriation from Montana's general fund, which totals approximately \$2 billion per biennium. About 40% of a school's funding is derived from these general fund dollars.
- The federal government granted \$605,318,735 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) and Emergency Assistance to Non-public Schools (EANS) funds in 2020. These funds will be serving schools through 2024.
- Montana currently has 826 schools within 402 school districts.
- There are 311 (37.65%) Montana schools with less than 50 enrolled students, and two-thirds of Montana schools have less than 500 enrolled students.
- Montana has 165,200 students. This number includes 149,198 public school students, 8,634 private school students, and 7,368 homeschooled students.
- The largest demographics of Montana students are white 77.75%, American Indian 10.92%, Hispanic 5.38%, Asian 0.73%, Black 0.77%, Pacific Islander 0.2%, and others 4.25%.
- The four-year graduation rate for Montana high school students in 2022 was 85.7%. The Montana Native American four-year graduation rate in 2022 was 68.4%.
- Montana has 16,588 licensed K-12 educators, administrators, and paraprofessionals.
- The average student-to-teacher ratio in Montana is 13 to 1.
- State Trust Lands produced \$46,365,871 for Montana schools in 2022. An additional \$7,432,707 went to the School Facility and Technology Fund.
- The OPI has 2 buildings on the state complex (down from 4).
- The OPI has 225 regular employees, of which 79 are teleworking in 18 counties.

# Superintendent Arntzen's Initiatives

## Making Schools Montana Proud:



- Family, student, and community engagement
- Safety, mental health, and suicide prevention



- Celebrating teacher excellence and extending leadership opportunities
- Teacher recruitment and retention



- Closing achievement gaps
- Improving math and reading achievement with a focus on middle school



- Expanding industry, military, and post-secondary partnerships
- STEM, CTE, and workforce development emphasis beginning in middle school

# Superintendent Arntzen's Capitol Connections:

## Education Caucus Meetings

This session, the Education Caucus meetings took place in **Room 335 every other Tuesday morning at 7:00 am.** These meetings focused on legislation and collaboration between legislators, education organizations, and the Office of Public Instruction. Thank you for joining us for hot coffee and apple fritters!

### 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Senate Education Committee



Chair Dan Salomon (R)  
SD 47 Ronan, MT



Vice Russ Tempel (R)  
SD 14 Chester, MT



Vice Edie McClafferty (D)  
SD 38 Butte, MT



Daniel Emrich (R)  
SD 11 Great Falls, MT



Steve Fitzpatrick (R)  
SD 10 Great Falls, MT



John Fuller (R)  
SD 4 Kalispell, MT



Greg Hertz (R)  
SD 6 Polson, MT



Shannon O'Brien (D)  
SD 46 Missoula, MT



Andrea Olsen (D)  
SD 50 Missoula, MT



Keith Regier (R)  
SD 3 Kalispell, MT



Susan Webber (D)  
SD 8 Browning, MT

## 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session House Education Committee



Chair Fred Anderson (R)  
HD 20 Great Falls, MT



Vice Linda Reksten (R)  
HD 12 Polson, MT



Vice Tyson Running Wolf  
(D)  
HD 16 Browning, MT



James Bergstrom (R)  
HD 30 Buffalo, MT



Marta Bertoglio (R)  
HD 75 Clancy, MT



Lee Deming (R)  
HD 55 Laurel, MT



Sherry Essmann (R)  
HD 52 Billings, MT



Brandon Ler (R)  
HD 35 Savage, MT



Eric Matthews (D)  
HD 66 Bozeman, MT



Braxton Mitchell (R)  
HD 3 Columbia Falls,  
MT



Melissa Romano (D)  
HD 81 Helena, MT



Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R)  
HD 43 Billings, MT



Mark Thane (D)  
HD 99 Missoula, MT

## Legislator Recognition

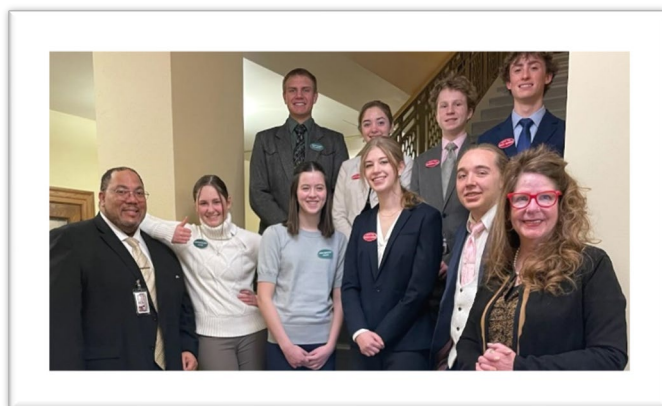
Superintendent Arntzen and the staff at OPI would like to recognize the following legislators that have been members of either the House or Senate Education Committees that are serving their last term during the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session:

- Senate Education and Cultural Resources Chair Dan Salomon
- Senate Education and Cultural Resources Vice Chair Edie McClafferty
- Senate Education and Cultural Resources Member Keith Regier
- House Education Chair Fred Anderson

Thank you for putting Montana students first!

## Weekly Meeting with Legislative Pages

Every Tuesday morning Superintendent Arntzen met with the Legislative Pages to discuss education in Montana, legislation, educated-related opportunities, and answer questions.



*Pages and Superintendent Arntzen meeting during the 68th Legislative Session*

*Thank you to Senate Page Coordinator Jean Johnson and House Page Coordinator Theresa Merriman for all of their work with the legislative pages this session!*



## Tribal Education Caucus

Every Thursday at 4:00 pm the Tribal Education Caucus met in **Room 350**. Attendees discussed important education issues our tribal communities are facing and identify solutions. The Office of Public Instruction experts presented resources and updated informational opportunities to better serve our American Indian students.

### 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Tribal Caucus Members



Sen. Mike Fox  
SD 16  
Hays, MT



Sen. Shane Morigeau  
SD 48  
Missoula, MT



Sen. Jason Small  
SD 21  
Busby, MT



Sen. Susan Webber  
SD 8  
Browning, MT



Rep. Donavon Hawk  
HD 76  
Butte, MT



Rep. Rhonda Knudsen  
HD 34  
Culbertson, MT



Rep. Tyson Running  
Wolf  
HD 16  
Browning, MT



Rep. Sharon Stewart  
Peregoy  
HD 42  
Crow Agency, MT



Rep. Frank Smith  
HD 31  
Poplar, MT



Rep. Marvin  
Weatherwax  
HD 15  
Browning, MT



Rep. Jonathan Windy  
Boy  
HD 32  
Box Elder, MT



Rep. Tony Brockman  
HD 9  
Evergreen, MT

## Capitol Events:

- January 2nd Superintendent Arntzen hosted an event Celebrating Parents as the First Teachers for legislators and families.
- January 3rd Superintendent Arntzen held an Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Panel discussion.
- January 25<sup>th</sup> Superintendent Arntzen attended Governor Gianforte's State of the State
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Superintendent Arntzen hosted an Indian Education for All (IEFA) event for legislators
- February 24<sup>th</sup> Superintendent Arntzen hosted a discussion on customizing education
- March 6-8<sup>th</sup> Superintendent Arntzen hosted a series of community events to Bridge Communication Between Families and Schools in: Miles City, Sidney, Havre, Lewistown, and Butte
- March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Superintendent Arntzen hosted an event Celebrating Women in Government in the Capitol Rotunda.
- March 28<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Arntzen co-hosted an event honoring Special Olympics in the Capitol Rotunda.
- April 12<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Arntzen held a Montana Ready event in the Capitol Rotunda.
- April 19, Superintendent Arntzen set up a table at the Fan Window for Purple Up! Day celebrating Montana's military children and families.
- Superintendent Arntzen has testified and attended numerous hearings pertinent to education nearly every day this session.

**To view OPI's legislative session updates, including material for the Tribal Education Caucus and Education Caucus, please visit the link via the QR Code below:**



## Images from this Session



*Superintendent Arntzen visited Kalispell, Stevensville, Billings, and Great Falls before the legislative session to host forums for parents, teachers, school administrators, and legislators to share their thoughts on education*



*Superintendent Arntzen visited Miles City, Sidney, Havre, Lewistown (pictured), and Butte during the transmittal break to host forums for parents, teachers, school administrators, and legislators to share their thoughts on education*



*OPI Staff interviewed female legislators to share their voices for the Women's Celebration*



*Superintendent Arntzen hosts an Education Caucus every other week at 7 am in Room 335*



*Superintendent Arntzen welcomed senior students from Hysham when they visited Helena to learn more about government and the legislative process*



### Customizing Education

*Superintendent Arntzen hosted an event on customizing education, giving Representative Anderson and Representative Vinton a chance to talk about their legislation*

## MONTANA YOUTH OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION!



*Superintendent Arntzen celebrates the Montana Youth of the Year. Congratulations to Bayleigh R, the Non-Military Youth of the Year from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Yellowstone County, Sarah F, the Military Youth of the Year from Malmstrom Air Force Base Youth Center, and Braden R, from the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Flathead Reservation and Lake County!*



*Mike Jetty, Indian Education Specialist, and Zach Hawkins, Director of Indian Education for All, at the Tribal Education Caucus*



*Superintendent Arntzen and Special Olympics Montana partnered to host a Rotunda event celebrating the work of Special Olympics and recognizing Montana's Unified Champion Schools*



*Superintendent Arntzen welcomed legislators to the Capitol with baskets of apples*

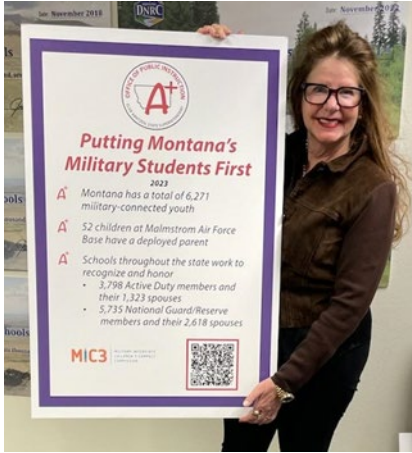


*Superintendent Arntzen Celebrates Montana Ready in the Rotunda*



# Military Children's Initiatives

## Month of the Military Child and Purple Up Day



April is the **Month of the Military Child**, highlighting the important role military children play in the armed forces community. This month was created in the mid-1980s to recognize military children for their sacrifice and bravery on the home front. The color purple combines each branch's colors into one: the Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard all use shades of blue, the Army uses green, and the Marines use red. **Thank you for joining Purple Up! Day on April 19!**

## Montana Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) was adopted by the Montana legislature through [SB203](#) which resulted in [20-1-230](#) & [20-1-231](#) MCA. MIC3 is part of the National Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission with the purpose to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families. Through the Interstate Compact key educational transition issues encountered by children of military families are addressed.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction and the Montana Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission adopted the Purple Star School Program. The Purple Star School Designation for military-friendly schools recognizes the schools that show a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military. Schools that earn the award will receive a special Purple Star recognition to display on site in honor of students of Military families. This designation is for three years.



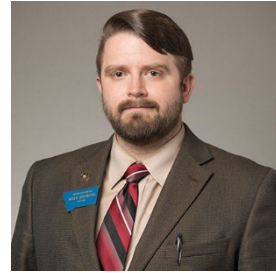
2022-2023 Purple Star Schools:

Montana School for the Deaf and Blind – Principal Julie-Dee Alt  
Great Falls High School – Principal Geoff Habel  
Chief Joseph Elementary School – Principal Brian Miller  
Meadow Lark Elementary School – Principal Theresa Sprague  
Early Learning Family Center – Superintendent Tom Moore

## Superintendent's Awards for Influence in Education



Rep. Jodee Etchart  
Billings, MT



Rep. Mike Hopkins  
Missoula, MT



Rep. Jedediah Hinkle  
Belgrade, MT



Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy  
Box Elder, MT



Rep. Sue Vinton  
Billings, MT



Rep. David Bedey  
Hamilton, MT



Sen. John Fuller  
Kalispell, MT

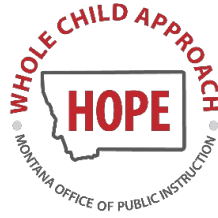


Sen. Theresa Manzella  
Hamilton, MT



## Superintendent Arntzen's Legislator Awards:

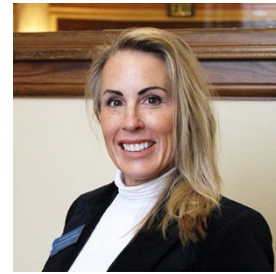
### Montana Hope Awards



Rep. Bob Keenan  
Bigfork, MT



Rep. Kerri Seekins-Crowe  
Billings, MT

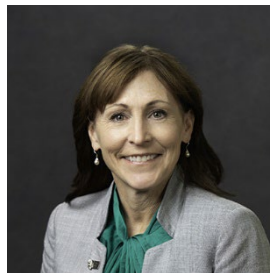


Rep. Naarah Hastings  
Billings, MT

### Montana Teach Awards



Rep. Fred Anderson  
Great Falls, MT



Rep. Marta Bertoglio  
Clancy, MT



Sen. Shannon O'Brien  
Missoula, MT

## Montana Learn Awards



Rep. Braxton Mitchell  
Columbia Falls, MT



Rep. Greg Kmetz  
Miles City, MT



Rep. Bob Phalen  
Lindsay, MT

## Montana Ready Awards



Rep. Greg Oblander  
Billings, MT



Sen. Becky Beard  
Elliston, MT

## 2023 General Fund Budget Overview:

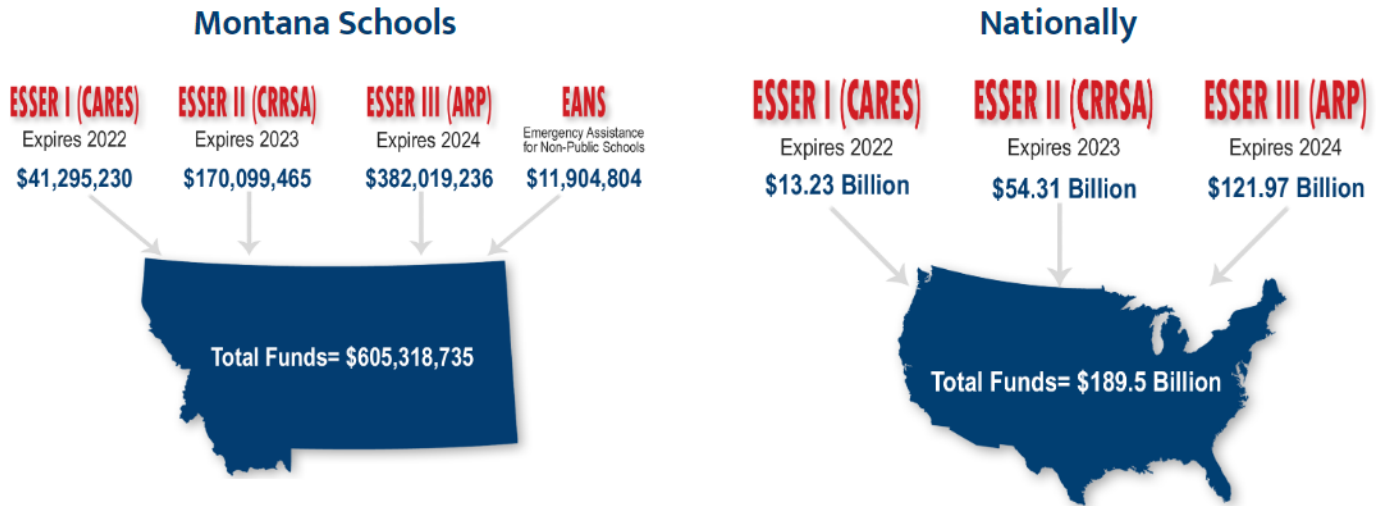
OPI's Budget Request to the Joint Subcommittee on Education for the Biennium

*Current as of 3/27/2023 House Floor Session*

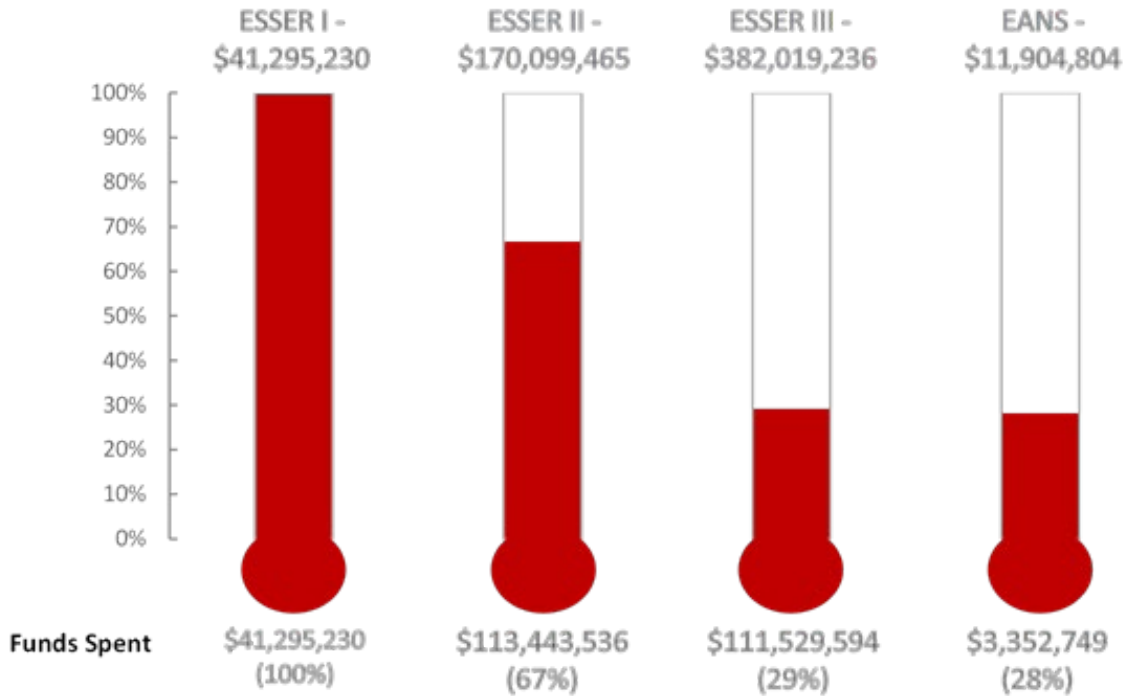
<b><u>Program 6: Personal Service and Operating Expenses of the Agency</u></b>	<b><u>FY2024</u></b>		<b><u>FY2025</u></b>		<b><u>Total</u></b>
Starting Point	\$	11,584,179	\$	11,584,179	\$ 23,168,358
Statewide Present Law Adjustments	\$	433,675	\$	501,922	\$ 935,597
Inflation Adjustment	\$	(36,464)	\$	(46,746)	\$ (83,210)
Additional 1% VS	\$	(60,737)	\$	(61,037)	\$ (121,774)
Audiological Services Equipment					
Replacement OTO	\$	333,692	\$	-	\$ 333,692
Tribal Boost Scholarship Program	\$	32,000	\$	32,000	\$ 64,000
CSCT FTE Reduction	\$	(36,750)	\$	(36,831)	\$ (73,581)
Indian Language Preservation					
Program	\$	750,000	\$	750,000	\$ 1,500,000
Teacher Licensing System	\$	(166,348)	\$	(166,333)	\$ (332,681)
Montana Digital Academy	\$	47,243	\$	95,117	\$ 142,360
Total Decision Packages	\$	1,296,311	\$	1,068,092	\$ 2,364,403
HB2 General Fund for OPI after					
House Floor	\$	12,880,490	\$	12,652,271	\$ 25,532,761
<hr/>					
<b><u>Program 9: Funds Distributed to School Districts</u></b>	<b><u>FY2024</u></b>		<b><u>FY2025</u></b>		<b><u>Total</u></b>
Starting Point (GF & Guarantee					
Account)	\$	963,605,992	\$	963,605,992	\$ 1,927,211,984
Statewide Present Law Adjustments	\$	73,876	\$	98,409	\$ 172,285
Inflation Adjustment	\$	(18,469)	\$	(24,603)	\$ (43,072)
K-12 BASE Aid Inflationary Increase	\$	1,510,344	\$	56,106,409	\$ 57,616,753
At Risk Inflationary Increase	\$	158,592	\$	339,563	\$ 498,155

# Federal COVID Relief Dollars Overview

## Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)



## ESSER Funds Expended:



*As of March 31, 2023*

# Land Board 2022 Review:

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation – Trust Lands Management Division (TLMD)

Mission Statement: Manage the State of Montana’s trust land resources to produce revenues for the trust beneficiaries while considering environmental factors and protecting the future income-generating capacity of the land.

The TLMD operates in conjunction with and under the direction of the Board of Land Commissioners, known as the “Land Board,” comprised of the Governor, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Commissioner of Securities and Insurance.

During the 2022 year, the Land Board has dutifully exercised its oversight responsibilities with regard to the management of the varied Trust properties.

## Overview of 2022

Management of 5.2 million surface acres  
6.2 million mineral acres

Trust Lands Common Schools Distribution for 2022 was \$46,365,871  
Trust Lands Contributed approximately 5.2% to the OPI Budget

## 2022

Active Timber Sales	56
Current Oil & Gas Leases	1,337
Current Coal Leases	30
Current Agriculture/Grazing Leases	8,927
Active Residential Leases	467
Cabin Sites Sold	33
Rights of Way Processed	195
Active Land Use Licenses	837
Land Banking Sites Sold	2
Tree Seedlings Planted	254,677
Timber Harvested (MMBF: million board feet)	51
Commercial Leases	121
Net Distributable Revenues to Common Schools:	\$49,505,050

## Policy Priority Summary

### **HB 15: BASE Aid K-12 Inflation Act**

Building stability into school funding has been and will continue to be Superintendent Arntzen's number one legislative priority. Having the legislature recognize the responsible use of precious tax dollars in fulfilling the promise to our Montana students is the importance this bill brings. Representative David Bedey of Hamilton introduced HB 15 to the House Education Committee, in recognition of the importance of school state BASE Aid funding in relation to the state budget. BASE Aid is a calculation that determines the state share of funding for Montana K-12 public schools and accounts for 44.7% of school districts' budget. Local property taxes largely compose the remainder of district budgets. **HB 15 was signed by Governor Gianforte on March 2, 2023.**

### **HB 2: General Appropriations: Revising the Use of Revenue from Teacher License Fees**

Superintendent Arntzen is committed to ensuring that teacher license fees are working directly for our educators, not for anyone else. The decision package from the joint subcommittee on education ensures the maintenance of the new teacher licensing system that dramatically reduces the time it takes to become a licensed teacher in Montana. **HB 2 is currently working through the Senate.**

### **HB 171: Revising Education Laws Related to Residential Treatment Facilities**

Not all of Montana's students are enrolled in public schools, and some of those students are receiving education in mental health care facilities. Superintendent Arntzen is committed to supporting quality education for all of Montana's students. This bill expands the current laws, allowing for education funding to flow for children in psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment facilities, *and* therapeutic youth group homes. Representative David Bedey of Hamilton introduced HB 171, recognizing that the current flow of education funding for children in treatment for serious emotional disturbances does not provide funding for all of Montana's students receiving treatment. **HB 171 has been passed by the legislature.**

### **HB 2: General Appropriations: One-Time-Only Funding to Update Audiology Equipment**

HB 2 provides for the appropriation of funding for state agencies for the next biennium, ending June 30, 2025. This bill, introduced by Representative Llew Jones of Conrad, closely mirrors the Governor's budget as well as the priorities of state agencies like the Office of Public Instruction. One of the specific priorities for this biennium from Superintendent Arntzen is to request specific one-time-only (OTO) funding to update audiology equipment in schools throughout the state. After receiving feedback from audiologists working in schools that our current equipment is outdated, Superintendent Arntzen made sure that getting OTO funding for new equipment was one of her top priorities for this legislative session. **HB 2 is currently working through the Senate.**



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## Legislation (197 Total)

*\*priority legislation supported by the Office of Public Instruction*

*Information current as of April 14, 2023*

### **Appropriations (16)**

#### **HB 2** -

General Appropriations Act  
Rep. Jones

#### **HB 5** -

Long-range building appropriations  
Rep. Hopkins

#### **HB 10** -

Long-range information technology financings and appropriations  
Rep. Hopkins

#### **HB 13** – PASS

State Employee Pay Plan and revising laws governing state employees  
Rep. Fitzpatrick

#### **\*HB 15** – PASS

BASE Aid K-12 Inflation  
Rep. Bedey

#### **HB 288** -

Revise laws related to tuition waivers for American Indian Students  
Rep. Windy Boy

#### **HB 321** -

Address school facility funding  
Rep. Reksten

#### **HB 355** -

Appropriate funds for local government infrastructure projects  
Rep. Fitzpatrick

#### **HB 408** -

Revise student scholarship organization and innovative education tax credits  
Rep. Vinton

[HB 482](#) -

Provide access to education and supports for children aging out of foster care  
Rep. Gillette

[HB 648](#) -

Provide for the best beginnings scholarship program  
Rep. Buckley

[HB 818](#) -

Generally revise laws related to funding for school facilities  
Rep. Reksten

[HB 863](#) – FAIL

Fund school meals for all students  
Rep. Romano

[HB 872](#) -

Create a Montana broadband coordinator  
Rep. Kortum

[HB 946](#) -

Implement provisions of HB2 – Section E – Education  
Rep. Bedey

[HB 950](#) -

Establish the Student and Administration Equality Act  
Rep. Hopkins

**General Education (60)**

[SB 1](#) – PASS

Align payment schedule of school block grants  
Sen. Salomon

[SB 8](#) – PASS

Revise transformational learning program  
Sen. O'Brien

[SB 9](#) – FAIL

Prohibit school districts operating schools outside district boundaries  
Sen. Salomon

[SB 10](#) -

Clarify school finance laws related to general fund levies  
Sen. O'Brien

**[SB 70](#)** – PASS

Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program  
Sen. O'Brien

**[SB 118](#)** – FAIL

Revise education scholarship tax exemption law  
Sen. Fuller

**[SB 129](#)** – FAIL

Revise laws related to compulsory attendance  
Sen. Tempel

**[SB 132](#)** – FAIL

Revise agricultural education laws  
Sen. Beard

**[SB 232](#)** – FAIL

Provide for deadlines to respond to public information requests  
Sen. Ellis

**[SB 235](#)** – FAIL

Establish the Education Fact Act  
Sen. Emrich

**[SB 289](#)** – PASS

Allow tuition waivers for qualified survivors of firefighters and peace officers  
Sen. Friedel

**[SB 315](#)** – FAIL

Provide for comprehensive sex, gender, and sexuality education in public schools  
Sen. Dunwell

**[SB 358](#)** -

Require disclosure of taxpayer funds for lobbying by local governments/schools  
Sen. Hertz

**[SB 389](#)** – FAIL

Revising education laws to add a definition of "civics"  
Sen. Emrich

**[SB 390](#)** – FAIL

Provide freedom in school choice  
Sen. Emrich

**[SB 413](#)** – FAIL

Prohibit sex education instruction below sixth grade in public schools  
Sen. Glimm

[SR 33](#) – PASS

Confirm governor’s appointees for the Board of Public Education  
Sen. Salomon

[HB 21](#) – PASS

Revising process for adoption of school accreditation standards  
Rep. Bedey

[HB 22](#) – PASS

Revising use of revenue from teacher licensure fees  
Rep. Bedey

[HB 23](#) – FAIL

Revise student scholarship organization and innovative education tax credits  
Rep. Thane

[HB 36](#) – PASS

Revise school funding laws related to enrollment increases  
Rep. Bedey

[HB 181](#) – PASS

Revise education laws related to the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Rep. Reksten

[HB 197](#) – FAIL

Constitutional amendment on Article X, Section 9  
Rep. Carlson

[HB 203](#) -

Generally revise education laws to enhance educational opportunities  
Rep. Bedey

[HB 214](#) -

Clarify the definition of remote versus offsite students  
Rep. Bertoglio

[HB 231](#) -

Remove the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC)  
Rep. Ler

[HB 240](#) – PASS

Revise family education savings program laws  
Rep. Thane

[HB 257](#) – PASS

Generally revise education funding  
Rep. Sprunger

[HB 294](#) – FAIL

Revise laws related to education tax credits

Rep. Vinton

[HB 338](#) -

Revise laws related to Indian Education for All

Rep. Windy Boy

[HB 346](#) -

Revise the tribal computer programming scholarship program

Rep. Windy Boy

[HB 352](#) -

Provide targeting interventions to support 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade reading proficiency

Rep. Barker

[HB 394](#) -

Require examination of creation of state-tribal education accord schools

Rep. Windy Boy

[HB 395](#) – FAIL

Improve school district consultation with American Indian tribes

Rep. Windy Boy

[HB 396](#) -

Require school trustees to admit resident children on a part-time basis

Rep. Hastings

[HB 441](#) – FAIL

Implement report cards for nonpublic schools receiving tax credit scholarships

Rep. Stafman

[HB 442](#) – FAIL

Require testing for nonpublic schools receiving tax credit scholarships

Rep. Stafman

[HB 501](#) – FAIL

Revise school textbook laws

Rep. Seekins-Crowe

[HB 517](#) -

Constitutional amendment regarding Board of Regents

Rep. Hopkins

[HB 533](#) – FAIL

Prohibit discrimination by nonpublic school receiving tax credit scholarships

Rep. Stafman

[HB 535](#) -

Revising education laws to provide a definition of "financial literacy"  
Rep. Mitchell

[HB 538](#) – FAIL

Revise constitutional and pledge of allegiance student instruction laws  
Rep. Phalen

[HB 549](#) -

Authorizing establishment of public charter schools  
Rep. Anderson

[HB 562](#) -

Authorize establishment of community choice schools  
Rep. Vinton

[HB 619](#) -

Generally language assessment laws for deaf and hard-of-hearing children  
Rep. Keogh

[HB 667](#) – FAIL

Generally revise education laws related to children under 5 years of age  
Rep. Bedey

[HB 688](#) – FAIL

Revise laws related to social-emotional learning  
Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

[HB 690](#) – FAIL

Generally revise pupil data privacy protections  
Rep. Sullivan

[HB 707](#) –

Allow certain elementary districts to create new high school districts  
Rep. Etchart

[HB 724](#) –

Generally revise public notice requirements  
Rep. Barker

[HB 744](#) – PASS

Revise laws to protect religious expression for students and teachers  
Rep. Kmetz

[HB 745](#) – PASS

Revise laws related to religious materials and prayer in schools  
Rep. Kmetz

[HB 749](#) -

Revise Montana digital academy laws  
Rep. Jones

[HB 796](#) – FAIL

Require school district trustee candidates to pass criminal background checks  
Rep. Falk

[HB 811](#) – PASS

Create online repository for information on school district boards of trustees  
Rep. Bertoglio

[HB 814](#) – FAIL

Revise laws related to intellectual diversity on college campuses  
Rep. Sheldon-Galloway

[HB 831](#) – FAIL

Fund school meals for all students  
Rep. Romano

[HB 877](#) – FAIL

Revise reporting requirements for vaccinations and exemptions  
Rep. Stafman

[HB 908](#) – FAIL

Provide for vaccine education  
Rep. Stafman

[HB 949](#) -

Generally revise education laws related to data governance  
Rep. Bedey

### **Language and Arts (1)**

[HB 287](#) -

Revise laws related to Indian language preservation  
Rep. Windy Boy

### **Mental Health (9)**

[HB 116](#) – PASS

Strengthen qualified provider pool statute for children’s mental health services  
Rep. Gillette



[HB 147](#) -

Enhance Medicaid rates for certain children's mental health services  
Rep. Gillette/Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

[\\*HB 171](#) – PASS

Revise education laws related to residential treatment facilities  
Rep. Bedey

[HB 252](#) – FAIL

Youth behavioral health screening  
Rep. Dunwell

[HB 334](#) -

Revise school attendance laws to address student mental health needs  
Rep. Bishop

[HB 740](#) – FAIL

Revise laws relating to out-of-state placement of youth with mental health needs  
Rep. L. Smith

[HB 777](#) – PASS

Adopt the interstate counseling compact  
Rep. Buttrey

[HB 822](#) -

Generally revise school-based mental health services  
Rep. Keenan

[HB 875](#) – FAIL

Establishing the school mental health promotion pilot program  
Rep. Romano

### **School Transportation (4)**

[SB 69](#) – PASS

Clarify school transportation related to passenger vehicles  
Sen. O'Brien

[HB 344](#) – FAIL

Require new school buses to be equipped with lap-shoulder belts  
Rep. Thane

[HB 366](#) -

Increase penalties for passing school buses  
Rep. Hawk

[HB 679](#) -

Require certain vehicles to carry traction control devices  
Rep. Loge

**Work-Based Learning/Career Technical Education (5)**

[SB 444](#) -

Generally revise labor laws related to work-based learning  
Sen. Small

[HB 382](#) -

Revise education laws related to career and technology student organizations  
Rep. Kassmier

[HB 458](#) – PASS

Generally revise regulations governing the eligibility of career coaches  
Rep. Anderson

[HB 888](#) – FAIL

Support community colleges in addressing immediate workforce needs  
Rep. A. Regier

[HB 944](#) -

Establish the Montana in-demand skilled trades investment pilot program  
Rep. Tuss

**Elections (15)**

[SB 61](#) – PASS

Clarify definition of election officials  
Sen. Ellis

[SB 123](#) -

Revise information that appears on ballot for levy elections  
Sen. Hertz

[SB 200](#) – FAIL

Revise use of party affiliation for nonpartisan races  
Sen. Hertz

[SB 248](#) – FAIL

Revise laws related to retention of election records  
Sen. Manzella

[SB 251](#) – FAIL

Sunset or reapprove existing voter-approved property tax levies  
Sen. Hertz

**SB 267** – FAIL

Revise laws related to State Fund and government agencies  
Sen. Hertz

**SB 291** – FAIL

Revise threshold for approval for certain bond elections  
Sen. Hertz

**SB 292** – FAIL

Revising the threshold for approval of a mill levy election  
Sen. Hertz

**HB 205** – FAIL

Generally revise mill levy election laws  
Rep. Marshall

**HB 206** – FAIL

Generally revise mill levy election laws  
Rep. Marshall

**HB 508** – FAIL

Allow option to vote in school district elections  
Rep. J. Hinkle

**HB 543** -

Revise laws for ballot wording for bonds and levies  
Rep. J. Hinkle

**HB 774** -

Generally revise election laws  
Rep. Hopkins

**HB 784** – FAIL

Revise laws related to school elections  
Rep. Nave

**HB 807** – FAIL

Generally revise election laws  
Rep. Hellegaard

**Facilities (3)**

**SB 553** – FAIL

Revise school funding laws related to school facilities  
Sen. Hertz

[HB 126](#) – FAIL

Generally revise laws related to Montana facility finance authority  
Rep. Anderson

[HB 514](#) – FAIL

Increase the inflationary adjustment cap related to school funding  
Rep. Romano

### **Special Education (1)**

[HB 393](#) -

Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act  
Rep. Vinton

### **Taxes (8)**

[SB 97](#) – FAIL

Implement renewable portfolio standard production tax for property tax relief  
Sen. Regier

[SB 125](#) – FAIL

Limit certain property tax levies to 5 years without reapproval  
Sen. Hertz

[SB 523](#) -

Generally revise tax increment financing laws  
Sen. Hertz

[HB 192](#) – PASS

Use surplus revenue for income tax and property tax refunds and payment of bonds  
Rep. Mercer

[HB 212](#) – PASS

Increase business equipment tax exemption  
Rep. Kassmier

[HB 481](#) -

Increase rate of inflation limit for calculating property tax levies  
Rep. Fitzgerald

[HB 587](#) -

Generally revise school finance laws related to property taxes  
Rep. Jones

[HB 613](#) – FAIL

Using excess revenue to fund local property tax relief  
Rep. Thane

## Teacher Recruitment and Retention (13)

### [SB 373](#) – PASS

Provide for alternative teacher credentialing  
Sen. Salomon

### [HB 117](#) – PASS

Generally revise working retiree laws under TRS  
Rep. Bertoglio

### [HB 135](#) – PASS

Revise administrative provisions of TRS  
Rep. Bertoglio

### [HB 226](#) -

Generally revise pension laws  
Rep. Moore

### [HB 259](#) – FAIL

Revise teacher license laws  
Rep. Deming

### [HB 332](#) -

Generally revise laws related to school employee health benefits  
Rep. Bedey

### [HB 403](#) -

Generally revise laws concerning fees for teacher and specialist certificates  
Rep. Bedey

### [HB 445](#) – FAIL

Establish mentoring program for new teachers  
Rep. Romano

### [HB 503](#) – FAIL

Generally revise education laws related to teacher certification  
Rep. Hastings

### [HB 583](#) -

Revise occupations and education laws for military license reciprocity  
Rep. Barker

### [HB 588](#) -

Revise TEACH Act incentives to increase starting teacher salary  
Rep. Jones

[HB 633](#) – FAIL

Provide means to raise teacher pay in school districts with high cost of living  
Rep. Matthews

[HB 833](#) -

Establish teacher residency program  
Rep. Barker

**School and Child Safety (8)**

[SB 213](#) – PASS

Revise laws related to school safety teams  
Sen. McClafferty

[SB 214](#) – PASS

Enact Audio and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact  
Sen. McClafferty

[SB 350](#) – FAIL

Generally revise privacy laws related to student data  
Sen. Zolnikov

[HB 37](#) -

Generally revise child abuse and neglect laws  
Rep. Carlson

[HB 234](#) -

Revise dissemination of obscene material to minors laws  
Rep. Phalen

[HB 323](#) – FAIL

Revise laws related to child protective teams  
Rep. C. Hinkle

[HB 361](#) – PASS

Provide that use of legal name and sex by a student is not discrimination  
Rep. Ler

[HB 450](#) -

Protect physical self-defense in K-12 schools  
Rep. J. Hinkle

**Parental Rights (16)**

[SB 99](#) – PASS

Provide for a youth health protection act  
Sen. Fuller

**SB 116** -

Revise confidentiality provisions related to child protective services cases  
Sen. Lenz

**SB 337** – FAIL

Generally revise parental rights laws  
Sen. Manzella

**SB 339** –

Establish reasonable childhood independence laws  
Sen. Bogner

**SB 450** – FAIL

Personal Freedom/Right of Conscience Act related to immunizations and drugs  
Sen. Emrich

**SB 480** -

Remove opt-in requirement for student contact information on ACT test  
Sen. Dunwell

**SB 518** -

Revise parental rights laws to increase parental involvement in education  
Sen. Manzella

**HB 359** -

Prohibit minors from attending drag shows  
Rep. Mitchell

**HB 502** – FAIL

Revise education laws related to human sexuality instruction  
Rep. Seekins-Crowe

**HB 504** -

Revise school laws to require trustees to adopt a grievance policy  
Rep. Hastings

**HB 566** -

Revise notice requirements for human sexuality instruction  
Rep. Anderson

**HB 676** -

Revise laws to clarify fundamental parental rights  
Rep. Seekins-Crowe

**HB 715** -

Revise school immunization laws  
Rep. Carlson

[HB 759](#) – FAIL

Revise education laws related to health instruction  
Rep. Hastings

[HB 837](#) – FAIL

Require curriculum transparency in K-12 education  
Rep. J. Hinkle

[HB 913](#) -

Revise school library collection selection and reconsideration processes  
Rep. Barker

### State Employees (8)

[SB 29](#) – FAIL

Increase and extend the PERS Supplemental Employer Contribution  
Sen. McKamey

[SB 74](#) -

Revise administrative provisions of MPERA  
Sen. McKamey

[SJ 4](#) – PASS

Provide for interim study of PERS and TRS  
Sen. McKamey/State Administration and Veteran's Affairs Interim Committee

[HB 314](#) -

Revise compensation for members of boards, commissions, and councils  
Rep. Brockman

[HB 316](#) – PASS

Generally revise laws related to advisory councils  
Rep. Brockman

[HB 400](#) – PASS

Require agency reports to legislature to be in writing  
Rep. Mercer

[HB 407](#) – FAIL

Provide for affordable housing abatements  
Rep. Fern

[HB 923](#) – FAIL

Revise workers compensation laws to increase benefits  
Rep. Harvey



## Marijuana (1)

### [HB 128](#) -

Generally revise marijuana laws  
Rep. Kassmier

## General Bills that Relate to Education (29)

### [SB 18](#) – PASS

Add benefit policy statement to pension systems  
Sen. Cuffe

### [SB 41](#) –

Revise state land banking laws  
Sen. Welborn

### [SB 46](#) -

Remove new industry property classification  
Sen. McKamey

### [SB 47](#) -

Revise commercial drivers license laws to comply with federal requirements  
Sen. Manzella

### [SB 306](#) – FAIL

Revise education laws related to extracurricular activities  
Sen. Molnar

### [SB 436](#) – FAIL

Revise labor law adding certain elected officials in collective bargaining  
Sen. Hinebauch

### [SB 458](#) -

Define sex in Montana Law  
Sen. Glimm

### [HB 47](#) -

Generally revise the Montana Information Technology Act  
Rep. Dooling

### [HB 137](#) -

Generally revise laws related to the board of behavioral health  
Rep. Oblander

### [HB 152](#) -

Revise laws related to professional and occupational licensure  
Rep. Mercer

[HB 163](#) -

Revise and extend Missing Indigenous Persons Taskforce  
Rep. Running Wolf

[HB 174](#) -

Require certain costs paid to detention centers to be based on actual costs  
Rep. Seekins-Crowe

[HB 253](#) – FAIL

Provide for homestead exemption for primary residences  
Rep. Stafman

[HB 262](#) -

Revise local government financial reporting and audit requirements  
Rep. Schillinger

[HB 328](#) – FAIL

Require certain government boards to record public meetings in audio and video format  
Rep. Barker

[HB 367](#) -

Providing clarification for use of federal funds for data modernization  
Rep. Mercer

[HB 377](#) -

Create a 250<sup>th</sup> Commission for Montana  
Rep. Reksten

[HB 383](#) – FAIL

Establish the Montana hunters and anglers community fund  
Rep. France

[HB 498](#) – FAIL

Establish a Menstrual Equity Act  
Rep. Kerr-Carpenter

[HB 531](#) – PASS

Establish annual combined meeting of the board of education  
Rep. Brockman

[HB 580](#) -

Impose reporting requirements for state agencies and departments  
Rep. Mercer

[HB 651](#) – FAIL

Establish the Montana family and medical leave insurance act  
Rep. Harvey

[HB 663](#) – PASS

Establish a Montana veterans hall of fame  
Rep. Kerns

[HB 752](#) – FAIL

Require the national anthem to be performed at sporting events  
Rep. Mitchell

[HB 789](#) – FAIL

Revise laws related to the alteration of county boundaries  
Rep. Hellegaard

[HB 851](#) – FAIL

Establish a driving privilege card  
Rep. Stafman

[HB 853](#) – FAIL

Provide for sidewalks and shared-use paths that will improve school access  
Rep. Brockman

[HB 890](#) -

Require certain govt boards to provide audio/video recordings of public meetings  
Rep. Barker

[HJ 17](#) –

Interim study of facial recognition technology  
Rep. A. Regier



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