

Chapter 58 Research and Review Task Force Meeting Summary

Thursday, August 5, 2021

8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

The Task Force (TF) began their meeting by reviewing a suggestion for the addition of language around SEL in either part (g) or (m) or 10.58.501. The group decided to incorporate suggested language to replace current language in part (g). 10.58.501 (g) “**Plan and implement evidence-based instruction, interviews, and extensions that support the diverse academic and social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students**”. A vote was taken and unanimously the group recommended to the Superintendent this language be included in ARM.

The TF moved on to lever topic 2 and discussion around yearlong internships for student teachers. The TF discussed the difficulties of finding funding, properly funding internships for a year, and the possibility of individuals being drawn away from a career in education due to not being able to afford the internship themselves.

There is a common misunderstanding that current law does not allow student teachers to be compensated. Montana law today, states a student teacher must be non-salaried but not that they cannot be compensated in any form. It was clarified that there is a difference between salaried and compensated.

The suggested for 10.58.312 (d) “**Preservice teachers are authorized to receive payment to the extent allowed by law**” was brought forward. The TF felt this suggestion is enabling languages giving the option to compensate student teachers. The way this language which gives flexibility for the changing of rule in the future as well. A vote was taken to incorporate this enabling language in the TF recommendation to the Superintendent and passed unanimously.

A suggestion of language for a more broad recommendation to explore the options of a yearlong internship was brought forward. “The State should investigate how to increase access of EPP students to paid onsite clinical residencies in diverse educational settings. Current EPP programs with existing pilot projects should collect data on implementation and effectiveness. This information should be shared across the state and lead to further investigation.” The TF decided to table the discussion for the day and pick it up at the following meeting.