



# Education and Local Government Interim Committee

PO BOX 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706  
(406) 444-3064  
FAX (406) 444-3036

## 61st Montana Legislature

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LEANNE KURTZ, Research Analyst  
JEREMY GERSOVITZ, Staff Attorney  
CLAUDIA (CJ) JOHNSON, Secretary

## SHARED POLICY GOALS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR THE K-20 PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM 2013 BIENNIUM

This shared policy goals and accountability measures document represents a merging of the following efforts that have involved leaders from the legislature, the executive, the K-12 education system and the university system during the 2011 interim:

1. Board of Regents strategic goals and objectives
2. Board of Public Education strategic goals and objectives
3. Superintendent of Public Instruction strategic goals and objectives
4. Shared policy goals and accountability measures developed by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee (ELG) Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals

The shared policy goals developed collaboratively between the ELG Subcommittee and the state education agencies reflect a shared commitment to:

1. Aligning high school outcomes with college readiness expectations to facilitate the transition from high school to college
2. Increasing college participation of Montana high school graduates
3. Expanding distance learning opportunities
4. Utilizing K-20 data to improve student access and achievement

The ELG shall review, update and approve this shared document each biennium and renew the biennial agreement with the Montana Board of Regents, the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Board of Public Education, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction so that this document may become the basis of state public policy in regard to the K-20 education system.

As a statement of public policy goals for public education in Montana, this document reflects the ELG's commitment to a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools and to academic quality throughout the Montana University System such that funding a high quality public K-20 education system is a critical goal of the State of Montana. This document, in conjunction with the definition of a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary

schools established in 20-9-309, MCA, will provide the policy direction needed to maintain a quality public K-20 education system in Montana.

The signatories to this agreement urge that it be used by the legislature in the 2011 legislative session to frame education budget initiatives and other policy recommendations for the 2013 biennium.

Original

## **K-20 SHARED POLICY GOALS AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, Article VIII, section 12, of the Montana Constitution vests in the Legislature the responsibility to ensure strict accountability of all revenue received and spent by the state, counties, cities, and towns and all other local governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 9, of the Montana Constitution vests in the Board of Regents of Higher Education the full power, responsibility, and authority to supervise, coordinate, manage, and control the Montana University System and to supervise and coordinate other public institutions assigned to it by law; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 9, of the Montana Constitution states that the Board of Public Education shall exercise general supervision over the public school system; and

WHEREAS, section 20-3-106, MCA, grants supervision of certain aspects of the public schools and districts of the state to the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and

WHEREAS, Article X, section 8, of the Montana Constitution states that the elected board of trustees in each school district shall exercise supervision and control of schools in the district; and

WHEREAS, agencies of the education community have increasingly, and to positive effect, shared leadership with the Education and Local Government Interim Committee; and

WHEREAS, agreement upon shared policy goals and accountability measures for the entire K-20 public education system, agreed upon by the Board of Regents, Commissioner of Higher Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Board of Public Education, and Education and Local Government Interim Committee, would represent an important advance in interagency cooperation and the quality of education policymaking; and

WHEREAS, shared policy goals must be systematically tied to accountability measures in order to ensure timely and effective implementation of policy; and

WHEREAS, the ELG Subcommittee on Shared Policy Goals, comprised of four legislators and the state education agencies, with representatives from the Board of Regents, the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction, and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, has identified statewide public education policy goals and accountability measures for the K-20 public education system, with the collaboration of the state education agencies;

This AGREEMENT, between the Education and Local Government Interim Committee and the Board of Regents, the Board of Public Education, the Office of Public Instruction, and

the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, identifies the statewide public education policy goals and related accountability measures (see Table 1) that will be used as a policy goal setting and assessment tool for policymakers, the state education boards and agencies, and the general public in evaluating the achievement of the policy goals; and that will be used as a guide to drive decision packages and funding mechanisms for the state funding that is appropriated to the K-20 public education system by the Montana State Legislature.

The parties further agree:

1. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Office of Public Instruction shall prepare a Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures Report presenting appropriate and current data for these goals and accountability measure in an easy-to-read format.
2. The Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures Report shall be presented to the House and Senate Education Committees and the Joint Appropriations Education Subcommittee by the 10<sup>th</sup> legislative day of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Legislature (2011 legislative session).
3. The Shared Policy Goals and Accountability Measures Report shall be posted to the Board of Regents, Board of Public Education, and Office of Public Instruction websites and the Education and Local Government Interim Committee website by January 1 each odd-numbered year.

This agreement expires June 30, 2013.

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2010.

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Representative Wanda Grinde, Chairman  
Education and Local Government  
Committee

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Stephen Barrett, Chairman  
Montana Board of Regents

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Senator Kelly Gebhardt, Vice Chair  
Education and Local Government  
Committee

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Sheila Stearns, Commissioner  
Commissioner of Higher Education

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Representative Bob Lake, Chairman  
ELG Subcommittee on Shared Policy  
Goals

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Patty Myers, Chairman  
Montana Board of Public Education

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Denise Juneau, Superintendent  
Montana Office of Public Instruction

**Table 1**  
**K-20 Shared Policy Goals, Objectives, and Accountability Measures**  
**2013 Biennium**

Shared Policy Goal	Objectives	Accountability Measure
1. Align high school outcomes with college readiness expectations to facilitate the transition from high school to college	1.0 Decrease remediation rates of entering freshman from Montana public high schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remediation rates of Montana high school students in the Montana University System steadily decrease [Measure -- 5 year trend data]</li> </ul>
2. Increase college participation of Montana high school graduates	1.0 Increase the percentage of Montana high school graduates who participate in accredited postsecondary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the percentage of Montana high school graduates enrolling in college --All postsecondary --All Montana postsecondary --MUS [Measure -- 5 year trend data]</li> </ul>
3. Expand distance learning opportunities	1.0 Create easy access to distance learning opportunities through the development of a virtual academy and through improvements to current virtual college capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the percentage of Montana high school students who participate in distance learning --Higher Ed baseline distance learning enrollment currently available --High School baseline distance learning enrollment not currently available, but will be collected starting Fall 2010 [Measure -- 5 year trend data]</li> </ul>
4. Utilize K-20 data to improve student access and achievement	1.0 Link K-12 and Higher Education data systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By June 30, 2013 the electronic link between MUS data and OPI data will be established</li> </ul>