



The Great Work of Montana's Public Schools

Volume V October 2017

INSPIRING MONTANA STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR FULL EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL

A joint publication of the following education advocacy groups

MASBO

Montana Association of
School Business Officials

MEA-MFT

Montana Education Association-
Montana Federation of Teachers

MQEC

Montana Quality
Education Coalition

MREA

Montana Rural
Education Association

MTSBA

Montana School Boards
Association

SAM

School Administrators
of Montana



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We are
united by
our shared
interests in
the best
interests
of students.

This information has been presented for the use of parents,
state policymakers, our members and the public at large.

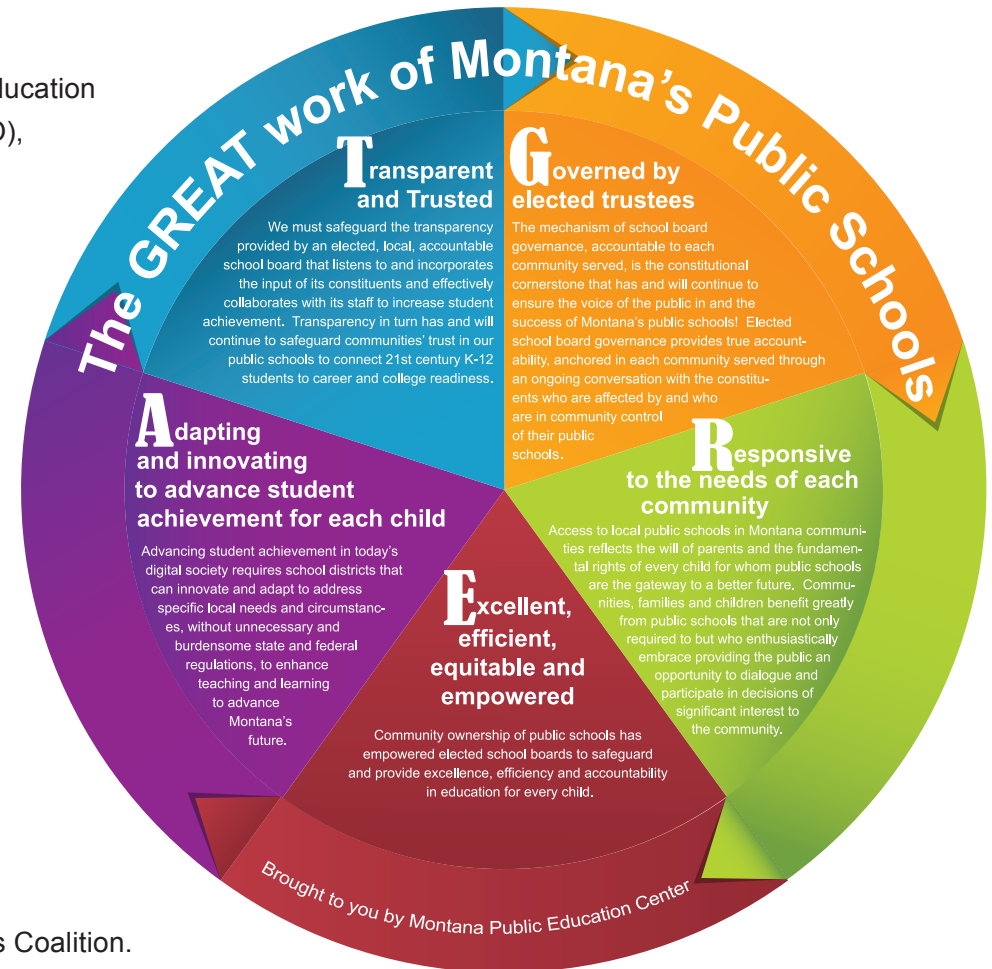
Introduction

The Montana Public Education Center (MT-PEC) is a coalition of public education advocates (the Montana Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), MEA-MFT, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC), Montana Rural Education Association (MREA), the Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA), and the School Administrators of Montana (SAM) dedicated to providing the public with facts about the GREAT work of Montana's Public Schools.

For five years now, MT-PEC has been administering a public opinion poll (through Zogby Analytics*) seeking Montana voter's perspectives on K-12 public education issues. Consistent with previous years polling results, there remains strong support for K-12 public education in Montana.

This publication is intended to inform and educate parents, policymakers, trustees, school staff and the public at large about the GREAT things that are happening in Montana's Public Schools, the results of the Zogby Poll, the work of the K-12 Vision Group (made up of members from the public education advocates noted above).

Visit **MT-PEC.org** to see the publications and initiatives undertaken by this Coalition.



* Zogby Analytics is a highly respected, international polling and research company using industry-standard methodologies with a margin of error of +/-4.5%

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ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES, YOU WILL BE INFORMED ABOUT THE
GREAT THINGS ABOUT MONTANA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Montana's Public Schools are **GOVERNED** by elected school trustees

Montana's Public Schools are community owned through elected school boards vested with local "supervision and control" of all publicly-funded K-12 education in Montana.

Montana's **1,400** elected, volunteer school trustees have high hopes and high expectations for Montana's **146,000+*** public school students.

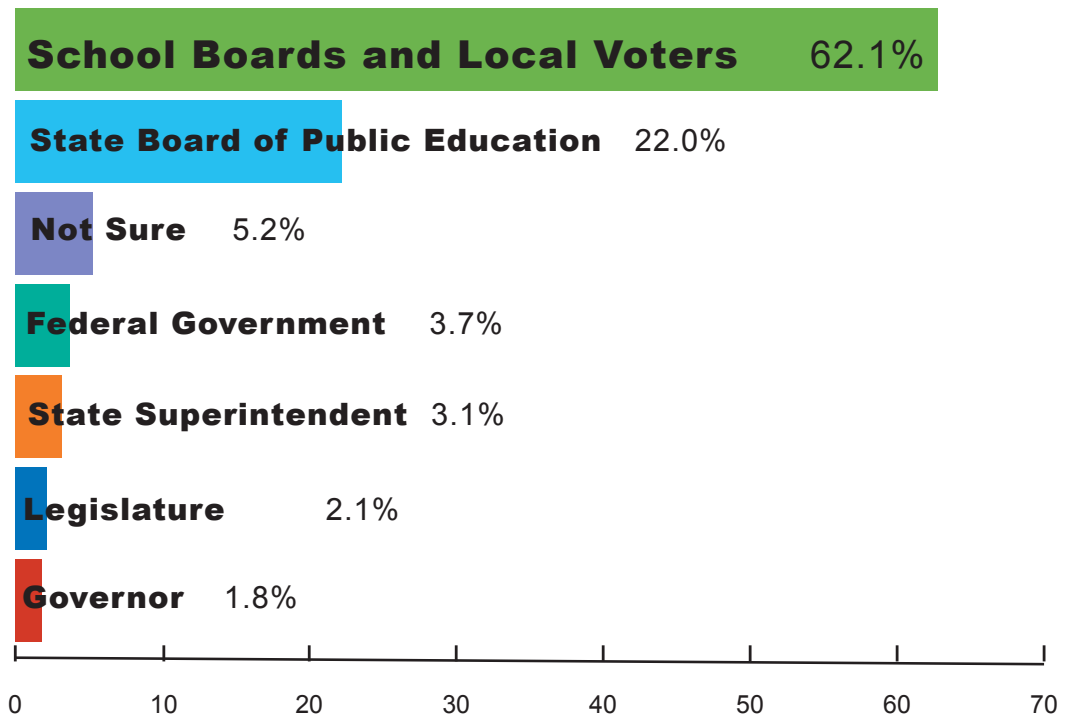
These trustees have been charged with the power and responsibility to effectively govern Montana's **821 schools*** and enthusiastically engage their local communities to provide an individualized education for each child.

In Montana, **409 school districts*** and their school board members are guardians of the public trust and, through their strategies and decisions, they are ultimately accountable to the public and the children they serve.

School trustees are strong advocates for individualized educational excellence of each community's youth with an undivided loyalty to put the interests of children first.

The responsibilities of school trustees often entail difficult choices, self-sacrifice and exposure to public criticism. However, it also brings a great deal of personal satisfaction and community ownership in finding solutions to challenges and in celebrating student successes.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU THINK SHOULD HAVE THE MOST AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE HOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE OPERATED?



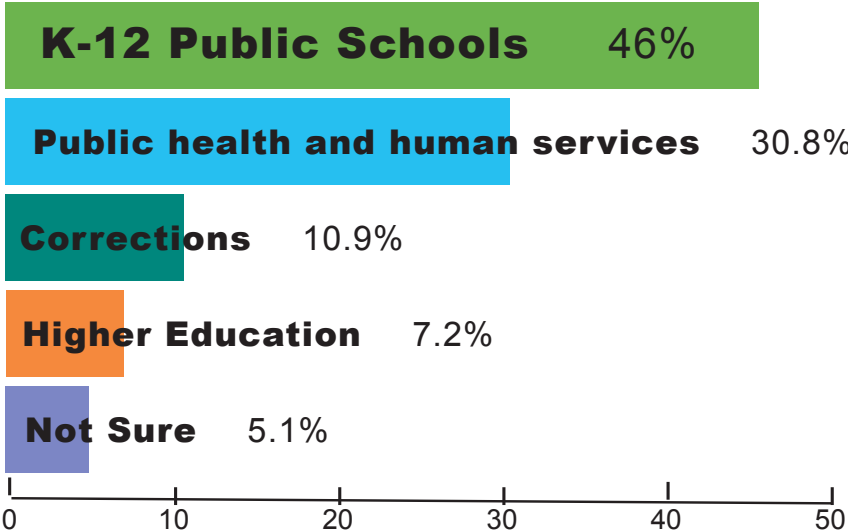
*Source: MT OPI- Facts About Montana Education 2017

Totals may not always be exactly 100 percent due to rounding. Variations should never exceed a tenth of a percent.

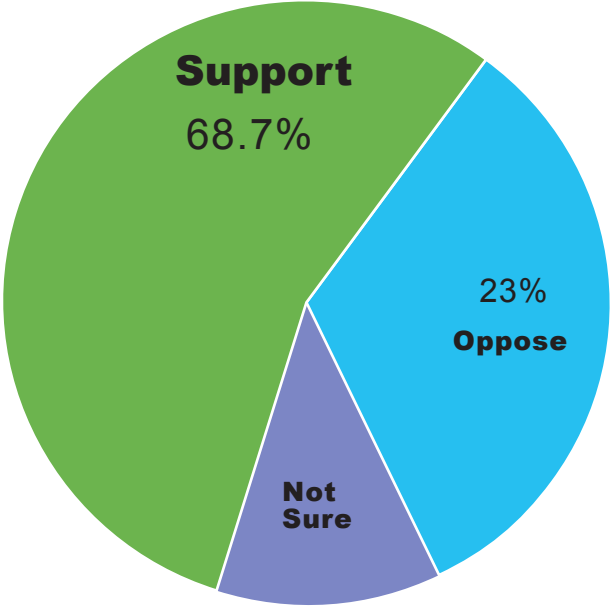
Montana's Public Schools are **RESPONSIVE** to the needs of each community

Without community support, Montana Public Schools, cannot thrive. Our public schools engage with their local communities to ensure that the expectations of parents and community members are honored through enhanced promotion of individual student success.

WHEN IT COMES TO HOW STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDS YOUR TAX DOLLARS, WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE THE HIGHEST PRIORITY?



DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE STATE-FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL?

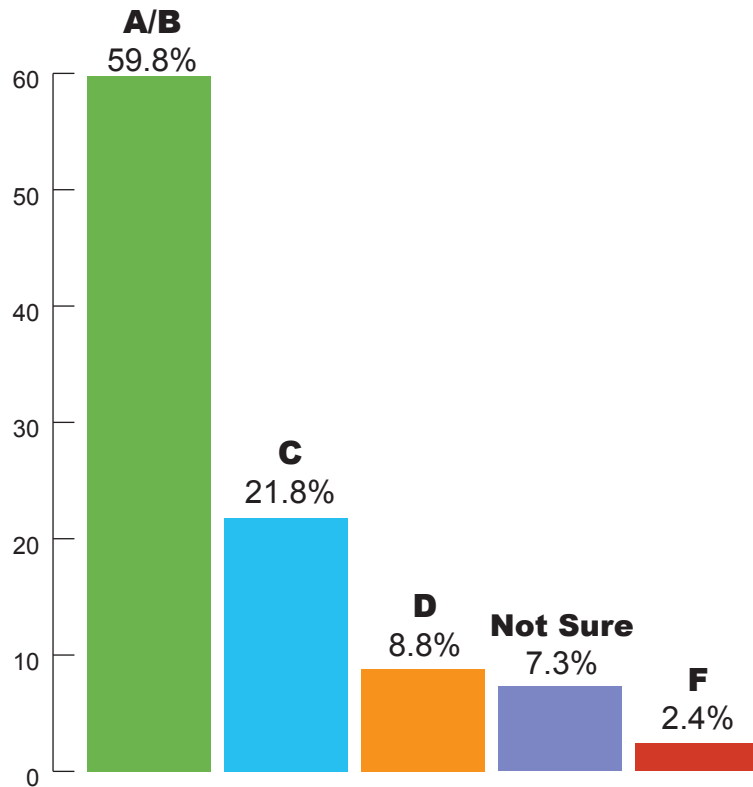


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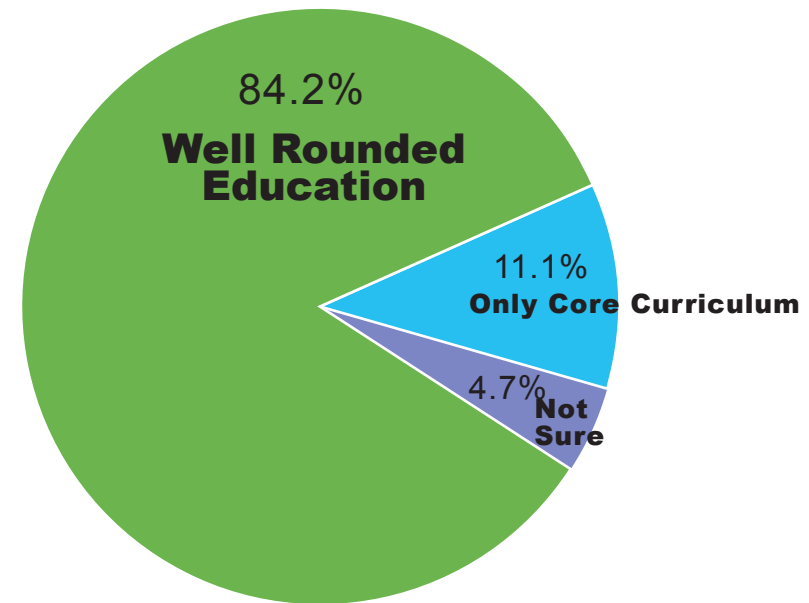
Montana's Public Schools are **EXCELLENT** and **EFFICIENT**

Montana Public Schools excel when it comes to providing a quality education to each student. Montana's Public Schools are close to or at the top of the nation in comparison to other states on student success and we do so at an efficient cost to Montana taxpayers.

WHAT GRADE, A THROUGH F, WOULD YOU GIVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDE A WELL-ROUNDED EDUCATION TO ALL CHILDREN, INCLUDING ITEMS SUCH AS ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN, GIFTED AND TALENTED, MUSIC, ART AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY, ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES OR SHOULD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROVIDE ONLY CORE CURRICULUM?

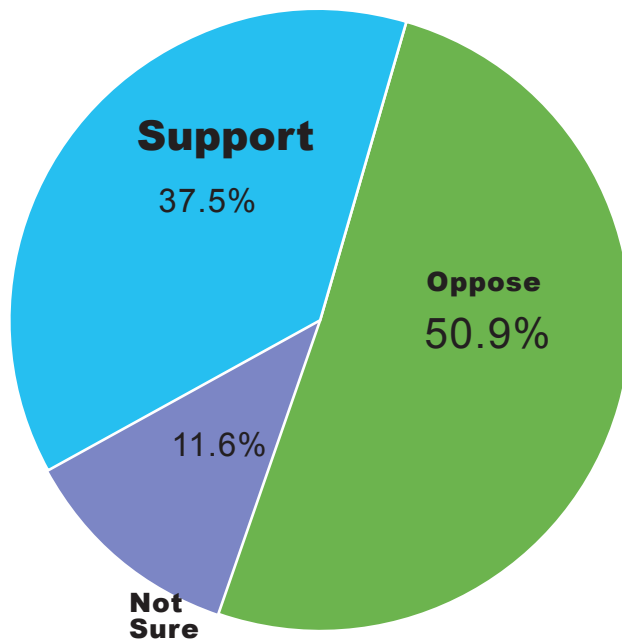


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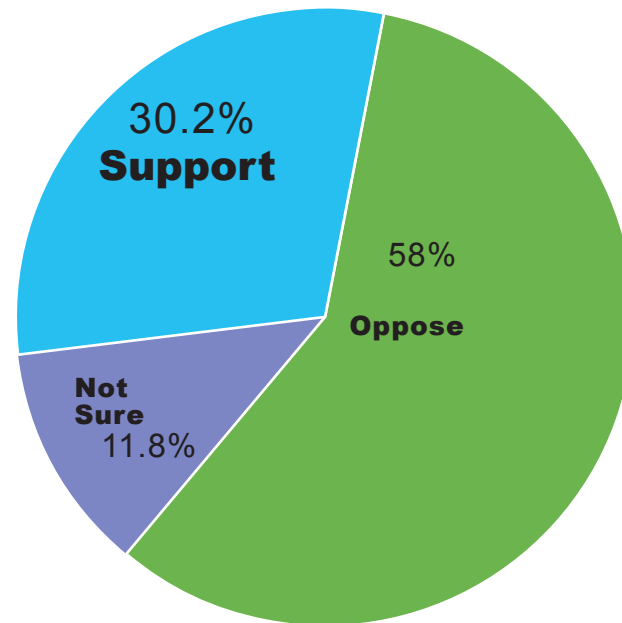
Montana's Public Schools are **EXCELLENT** and **EFFICIENT**

Clear-eyed and stoic, Montana's public school leaders work through the forces beyond their control to achieve the people's vision, demonstrating grit, refusing to settle for anything less than individualized excellence for each student.

DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE TAX BENEFITS (IE VOUCHERS, TAX CREDITS) FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?



WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE TAX BENEFITS (IE VOUCHERS, TAX CREDITS) FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IF YOU KNEW THAT SOME TAX BENEFITS WOULD BE USED TO PAY FOR EDUCATION EXPENSES OTHER THAN CHRISTIANITY (IE ISLAM, HINDUISM, BUDDHISM)?



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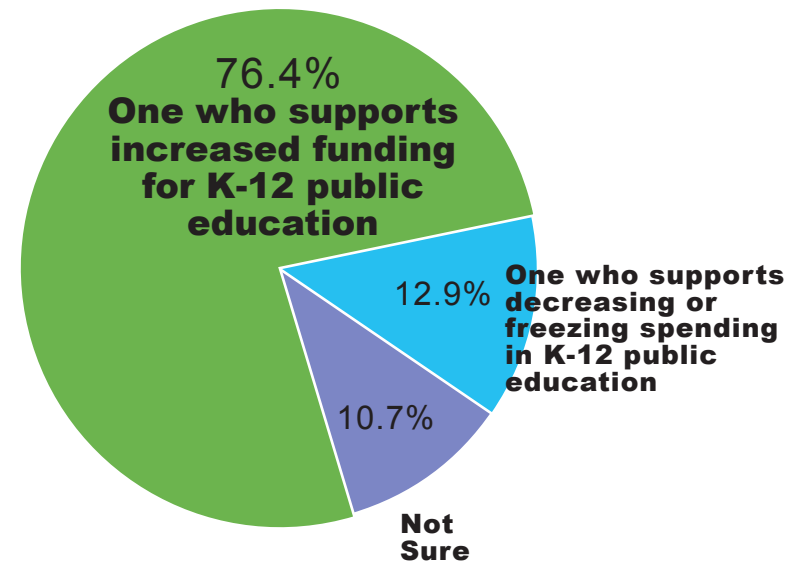
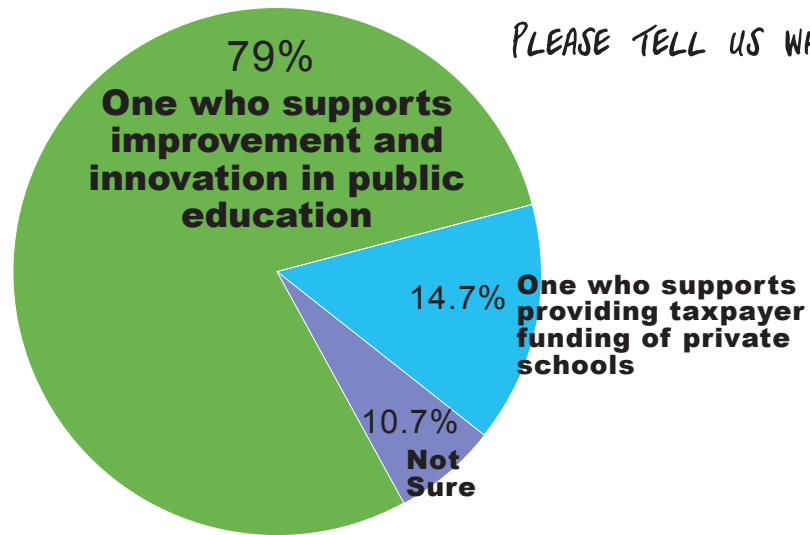
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Montana's Public Schools **ADAPT** and **INNOVATE** to enhance individual student success

The timeless and relentless charge of generating individualized excellence in Montana's Public Schools has come with a corresponding necessity of continually adapting and innovating to meet the needs and talents of students and the expectations of local communities.

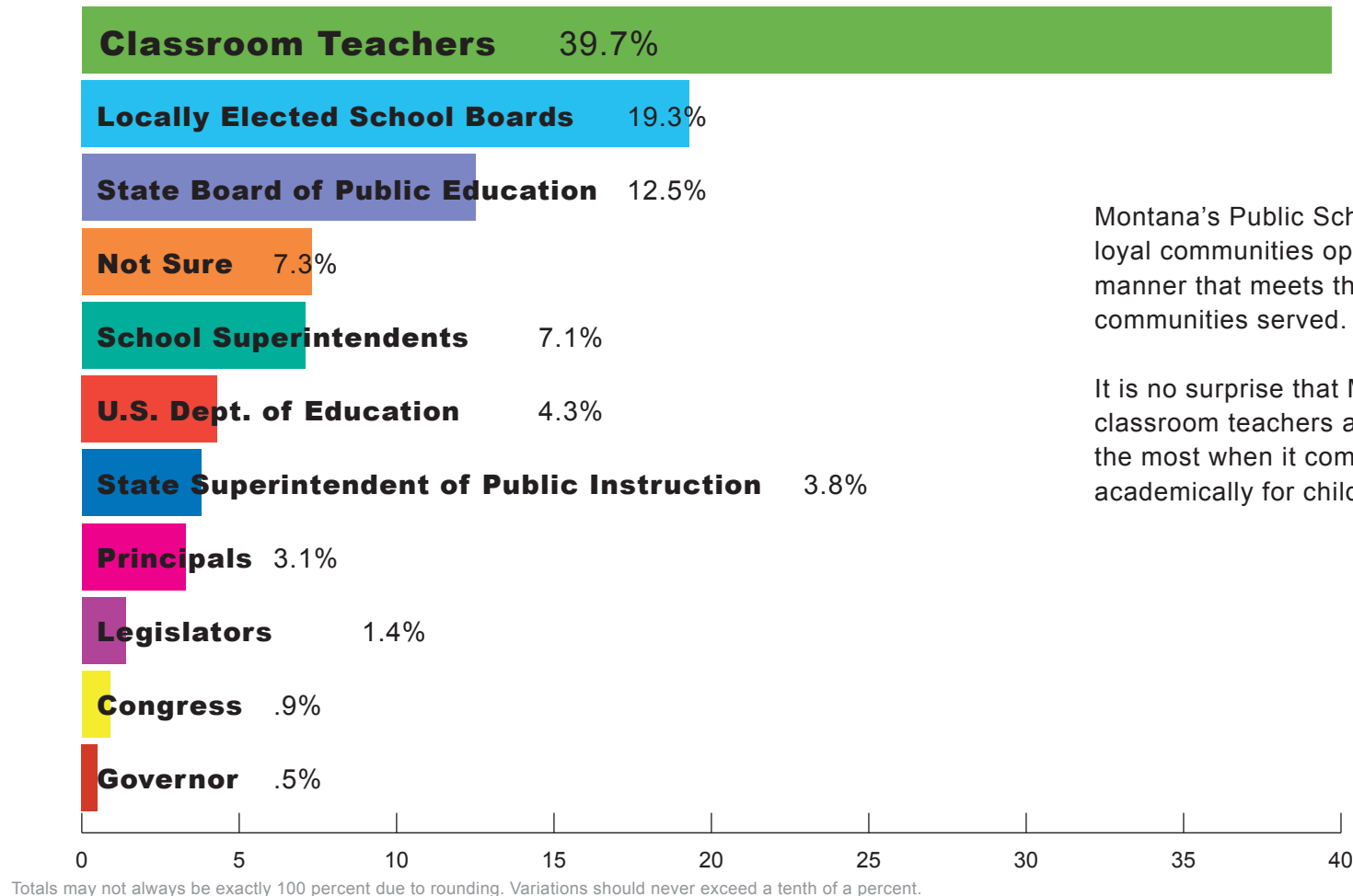
PLEASE TELL US WHICH TYPE OF ELECTED OFFICIAL YOU MOST SUPPORT?



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Montana's Public Schools operate in a **TRANSPARENT** manner garnering the **TRUST** of their local communities

WHO AMONG THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS DO YOU TRUST THE MOST WHEN IT COMES TO DECIDING WHAT IS BEST ACADEMICALLY FOR STUDENTS IN MONTANA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS?



Montana's Public Schools are partners with their loyal communities operating in a **transparent** manner that meets the expectations of the communities served.

It is no surprise that Montana voters **trust** classroom teachers and locally elected trustees the most when it comes to doing what is best academically for children in our public schools.

A Vision for Public Education in Montana

K-12 Vision Group

WHO IS THE K-12 VISION GROUP?

The K-12 Vision Group was first formed by key education advocacy groups (including MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA and SAM) in 2011 with a crucial charge of developing a comprehensive vision for the future success of public education in Montana and establish a clear road map for getting there.

Comprised of teachers, elected trustees, superintendents, principals and school business officials nominated by their peers from across the state of Montana, the K-12 Vision Group has developed an inspiring vision, aligned with the guarantees afforded Montana citizens under our Constitution, that holds great promise for the future of Montana citizens.

K-12 VISION GROUP STATEWIDE REPRESENTATION



A Vision for Public Education in Montana

K-12 Vision Group STRATEGIC PLAN

CORE PURPOSE

A system of public education which will develop the full educational potential of each person.

*Article X, Section 1
Montana Constitution,
1972*

“It is the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person.”

CORE VALUES

Montana’s public school districts share the authority and responsibility with the Legislature, Governor, Board of Public Education and State Superintendent to provide a system of public education that affords children, their families and Montana’s citizens each of the guarantees of Article X of the Montana Constitution.

The Montana Constitution guarantees:

The preservation of a basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools throughout Montana that is capable of developing the full educational potential of each person served;

Article X, Section 1

Quality and equality of educational opportunity for each person;

Article X, Section 1

The preservation of the distinct and unique cultural heritage of American Indians;

Article X, Section 1

Prohibits direct or indirect aid to parochial education;

Article X, Section 6

Prohibits discrimination on account of sex, race, creed, religion, political beliefs, or national origin in Montana’s public schools;

Article X, Section 7

Each community’s ownership of its publicly funded schools, with the support and engagement of school staff and the community exercised through supervision and control by elected trustees;

Article X, Section 8

General supervision of Montana’s public schools by an appointed Board of Public Education

Article X, Section 9

The proper and exclusive use of state land revenues for Montana’s public schools.

Article X, Section 2,3,4 and 5

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K-12 Vision Group STRATEGIC PLAN

WHERE ARE WE GOING? OUR ENVISIONED FUTURE - 2025

Montana's K-12 public schools work collaboratively with each other, with state policymakers, and with their communities to successfully develop the full potential of each person.

VIVID DESCRIPTIONS OF OUR ENVISIONED FUTURE

Policymakers at all levels:

- Consistently recognize, honor and support the goal of the people to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person and use that goal to drive policymaking decisions;
- Consistently support each community's ownership of its public schools and each district's ability to develop the full potential of each person through supervision and control by locally elected school boards;
- Adequately and rationally provide the resources needed by Montana's public schools; and
- Support the budgetary and other flexibilities needed by Montana's public schools to be responsive to community and student needs.

Montana's public school districts are focused, adaptable, innovative, engaging, and driven to help every student succeed by consistently:

- Ensure that public school students' knowledge and skill match contemporary needs;
- Use innovation and technology to link each student to the world in which he/she will learn and succeed;
- Operate in well-designed, modern and updated facilities that enhance learning;
- Engage families, the community and each other to develop the full potential of each person;
- Empower and engage students to actively participate in their education and set high expectations for themselves;
- Design and use effective data systems to support and enhance each student's success; and
- Increase academic excellence through equitable availability of the full spectrum of educational resources and opportunities.

As a result of the support of policy-makers and the leadership of Montana's public school districts, Montana's public school students:

- Appreciate the intrinsic value of their education and are inspired to ensure the success of public education as stewards of the future;
- Succeed despite the circumstances of life that could otherwise interfere in achievement of their full potential; and
- Use the knowledge and skills they develop in Montana's Public Schools to think critically, engage and succeed as productive members of society.

A Vision for Public Education in Montana

K-12 Vision Group STRATEGIC PLAN

HOW DO WE PLAN TO GET THERE? OUR FIVE YEAR GOALS

— UPDATED AUGUST 2017 —

Student Success: Statement of Intended Success, 2022

Continued growth in student success in Montana's Public Schools is evident through multiple measures, including but not limited to:

- 100% of Montana's students exit the public education system career and college ready, having explored career pathways;
- A continued increase in students graduating with postsecondary credits through enhanced and expanded opportunities for dual enrollment and earlier career pathway knowledge;
- Continued improvement focus in narrowing achievement gaps through targeted intervention and other strategies;
- Increased achievement and proficiencies using multiple measures including text, audio and video;
- Fostering growth mindsets, passions for learning and perseverance of personal, social and emotional goals; and
- Wide availability of a well-rounded education, including items such as early childhood education, all day kindergarten, gifted and talented, music, art, physical education, technology, career and vocational technical education and advanced placement courses.

As a result of these achievements, students in Montana's Public Schools complete their K-12 education ready for a lifetime of post-secondary success as productive and engaged citizens, pursuing the full spectrum of college and career options.

Teaching and Learning: Statement of Intended Success, 2022

Through a widely held, intrinsic trust in educators and strong local control, Montana's public school educators and students thrive. Montana's Public Schools have the resources they need to focus on students and maximize student success, allowing teachers and administrators to consistently avail themselves of the latest research and the innovative use of technology and other evolving teaching and learning strategies to provide personalized instruction for each person. Montana Public School teachers and administrators have the resources they need to avail themselves of the latest research and the innovative use of technology. Using these resources, they are able to develop the full educational potential of each person served. As a result, Montana's Public Schools are a magnet for the recruitment and retention of quality educators.

Governance, Leadership and Accountability:

Statement of Intended Success, 2022

Locally elected school boards, administrative leaders, teachers, staff, and local communities collaboratively focus on the interests of each person educated in our public schools. This collaboration and focus is also reflected in the relationships among the statewide public education advocacy groups representing teachers, trustees, administrators, and school business officials. The Legislature, Governor, Board of Public Education, and State Superintendent all actively support and collaborate to continually improve and enhance a system that develops the full educational potential of every student in Montana's Public Schools. As a result, Montana schools are nationally recognized for excellence.

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HOW DO WE PLAN TO GET THERE? OUR FIVE YEAR GOALS

UPDATED AUGUST 2017 — CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

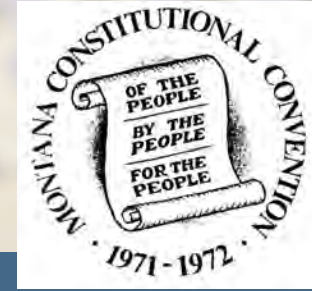
Culture, Climate and Social Values:

Statement of Intended Success, 2022

The independent spirit, unique values and strong work ethic of Montanans are well recognized and reflected in each of Montana's Public Schools. Through our collective dedication to maximizing our resources for excellence, our commitments to quality public education in each community, and the preservation of our American Indian culture and our personalized learning environments, all students, regardless of personal circumstance or ability, feel supported and fully prepared for a successful future. Montanans recognize their public schools as the key to the state's future success.

Community Engagement: Statement of Intended Success, 2022

Montana's communities understand the importance of taking pride and ownership in their local public schools, setting high standards, being an integral part of the solution and sharing in the successes of our students, and local public schools and the community. Both the community and the schools place emphasis on ongoing collaboration, resources sharing and communication. Increased recognition of the great work of Montana's public schools has caused Montana's communities to engage and support success for each person served. In turn, communities support their local public schools through various means including financially. As a result, Montana's public schools and their communities have collaborated to energize and effectively individualize public education to increase student success in Montana's Public Schools.



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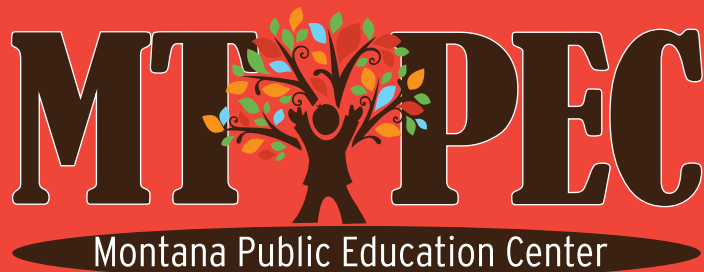
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The core purpose of public education in Montana
is to fully develop the educational potential
of each child served in our public schools.