

# A VISION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MONTANA



## K-12 VISION GROUP STRATEGIC PLAN

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### WHO ARE WE?

The K-12 Vision Group's membership includes school trustees, teachers and administrators from every corner of Montana. In addition, the group is anchored by key representatives from Montana's education groups including MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA and SAM.



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### CORE PURPOSE

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

*Article X, Section 1, Montana Constitution, 1972*

### 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 and,*

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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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 student- centered, focused, adapt- able, innovative, engaging, safe and secure, and driven to:

- Ensure that public school students' knowledge and skills 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 policymakers 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.

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

#### Student Success:

##### *Statement of Intended Success, 2020*

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;
- A continued increase in students graduating with postsecondary credits through enhanced and expanded opportunities for dual enrollment;
- Continued improvement in narrowing achievement gaps through targeted intervention and other strategies;
- Increased achievement and proficiencies using multiple measures;
- Fostering growth mindsets, passions for learning and perseverance of personal 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, 2020*

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 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. 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, 2020*

Locally elected school boards, administrative leaders, teachers and other 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.

#### Culture, Climate and Social Values:

##### *Statement of Intended Success, 2020*

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, 2020*

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. 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. 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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### LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES IMPLICATED BY OUR VISION

Our legislative priorities are designed to ensure constitutional protections guaranteed by Article X, including the people's goal to establish a system of education which will develop the full educational potential of each person.

**In pursuit of this overarching goal, we have identified initiatives/proposals that we support and others that we oppose.**

#### We Support:

- Any and all initiatives/proposals that will advance the interests of public school students as described in our vision for the success of Montana's Public Schools herein;
- Implementation of formula-based early childhood education through expansion of the definition of pupil to include 4-year-olds in a half day program;
- Ensuring a meaningful state role in guaranteeing the adequacy and quality of public school facilities;
- Ensuring public schools' success in recruiting and retaining quality teachers and administrators to serve students in Montana's Public Schools;
- Consideration of accountability measures implemented only as necessary to ensure transparency and public confidence in how tax revenues are spent, with equal application of such measures to all schools receiving public support of any kind;
- A mechanism to guarantee that the state's share of special education is annually adjusted by inflation as called for in the Legislature's definition of quality schools in §20-9-309, MCA;
- Increased flexibility in calculating school districts' maintenance of effort obligations to recognize all support of special education in such calculation; *and*
- Implementation of formula-based support of technology in Montana's Public Schools in alignment with the Legislature's definition of quality schools in §20-9-309, MCA.

#### We Oppose:

- Any proposal that seeks to infringe on the constitutional rights afforded Montana's Citizens under Article X of the Montana Constitution, including but not limited to direct, and indirect public appropriation or payments in support of private, parochial education;
- Any public support of private nonreligious schools through direct or indirect means while the state's compliance with its constitutional obligations under Article X of the Montana Constitution is incomplete.