

coalition of advocates

FOR MONTANA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MASBO | MREA | MTSBA | MQEC | SAM

Shared Priorities of the Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools for the 2023 Legislative Session

Adequate and equitable funding of Montana public schools to operate effectively amid inflationary pressures and provide the guarantees of Article X of the Montana Constitution to every child. We support high quality facilities, technology, transportation, and other required infrastructural needs that allow for the continued safety and security of our most valued treasure, our children.

Efforts to empower Montana's public schools to develop innovative and personalized learning models that ensure all children can reach their full potential.

Efforts to recruit and retain highly qualified public school educators and other staff who devote their lives to serving Montana's public school students and families - by valuing their efforts commensurate with the trust they have earned from those they serve, by providing them with livable wages, benefits, and resources, and inspiring them with the confidence of knowing that public policymakers support and appreciate their contributions.

Efforts to protect and preserve the authority of elected School Boards to supervise and control education in each community and give voice to the voters in each community. We believe that local governance initiated by popular election of leaders who are from the community in which they serve provides the best form of governance to ensure a strong public voice in Montana's public schools.

Efforts to provide Montana's public school stakeholders flexibility in utilizing resources responsibly, without the overreach of the legislature, to allow for the ever-changing needs in public education.

The efforts above require unity of purpose among the branches of government sharing authority and responsibility for the success of Montana's public schools, including the Legislature, Executive Branch (including the Governor, Board of Public Education and State Superintendent) and elected school boards.

Correspondingly, Coalition of Advocates for Montana's Public Schools oppose proposals that distract Montana from its responsibilities by diverting limited public taxpayer funds away from the constitutional purposes that Montana's Public Schools serve with fidelity and honor each day.

Shelley Turner
MASBO
sturner@masbo.com

Doug Reisig
MQEC
dreisig@mqec.org

Dennis Parman
MREA
dparman@mrea-mt.org

Lance Melton
MTSBA
lmelton@mtsba.org

Rob Watson
SAM
samrw@sammt.org