

SAM Legislative Tid Bits 11-16-18

On Wednesday, 11/14, legislators made their way to Helena to select leadership and begin orientation and training for the 66th Legislative Session! In the Senate, Scott Sales (R-Bozeman) will serve as President and Fred Thomas (R-Stevensville) Majority Leader; Jon Sesso (D-Butte) is the Senate Minority Leader. In the House, Greg Hertz (R-Polson) will serve as Speaker and Brad Tschida (R-Missoula) Majority Leader; Casey Schreiner (D-Great Falls) is the House Minority Leader. Other leadership and committee appointments for the session will be happening soon.

Another key component of the legislative session happened on Thursday, 11/15 when the Governor released the [2021 Biennium Executive Budget Proposal](#). [Section E](#) is the Education portion of the Budget. This is the starting point for funding of education for the next biennium and we are analyzing this with an eye on the SAM Advocacy Priorities (support adequate and equitable school funding, support recruitment and retention of quality educators, oppose privatization with public funds, support facility and technology infrastructure, support school based mental health services).

As of 11:00 am this morning, 11/16, 1379 bill drafts have been requested with LC placeholders. Of those 1379, 7 Bills have been introduced. SAM is following all bills related to education and school finance early on and will be developing a bill list around each of our 5 advocacy priorities so we can monitor progress. Currently (11:00 am), [SAM Followed Bills](#) include 82 bill drafts with 2 introduced bills. One of the first bills introduced for this session is [HB 27](#) - Generally revise special education funding, a bill that was endorsed by the Education Interim Committee and contains SAM and MCASE recommendations for making special education allowable costs become part of the school funding formula with inflation applied to this funding component, and an adjustment to the formula for special education cooperatives with appropriation of funds.

Our SAM [Advocacy](#) webpage is under construction as we are working on providing all SAM members with access to real time information about the [2019 Legislative Session](#). You can see this work is underway and if you are interested in becoming involved in this advocacy work, please sign up to be a part of the SAM Legislative Network 2019!

Calling all SAM Members to Join the SAM Legislative Network 2019 (SAMLN19)!

Are you interested in helping SAM promote our Advocacy Priorities in the 2019 Legislative Session? How about joining the team of SAM members who are committed to communicating effectively about SAM legislative issues/bills and collecting input from your colleagues in your region to let your legislators know about appropriate stances on issues/bills during the session? Click [HERE](#) to see the description and responsibilities of the SAMLN19. We need you to help with this important part of advocating for the students served in our schools!

For a SAM member to join the SAMLN19 click [HERE](#)!

Please sign up to so we can insure that education leaders' voice is clearly heard in the 2019 Legislative session.

Once you sign up, the SAMLN19 will be formed and we will train together to make this a pleasant experience for you using the tools SAM is creating to communicate effectively during the Legislative session.