

## SAM Legislative Tid Bits 11-30-18

Advocacy work is front and center with the 66<sup>th</sup> legislative session fast approaching – begins on January 7, 2019. The preliminary work to get SAM's advocacy priorities in front of legislators is underway. We have sent a letter to each legislator describing SAM, our advocacy package and our request to work with them on educational issues before, during and after the session. The SAM Advocacy webpage has been updated to include the [2019 Legislative Session](#) where all SAM activities before and during the session will be updated on a regular basis. As an example, the committees for the 2019 Session have been selected and you can review the legislators assigned to each committee on this webpage. The formation of the SAM Legislative Network ([SAMLN19](#)) is nearly complete – please sign up if you haven't done so already. We are planning some webinar training for those participating in the SAMLN19 coming in December. We are working on bill drafts that are SAM action resolutions and have identified legislators to carry these bills. Reports on our specific progress will be uploaded to the webpage on a regular basis, so check in often.

Thursday, 11/15 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). In this first version we noticed a missing component to address the Natural Resource Development (NRD) payment to schools. This week the Governor has made a positive correction to his budget that will show up December 15 (next version Governor Budget released) with the NRD funded at \$6.4 and \$7.6 million. This is a positive development prior to the start of the session.

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!