

SAM Legislative Tid Bits 2-1-19

The Senate decided to meet on Saturday, Feb 2 creating legislative day 21 for the 66th Legislative session. At this point in the session, SAM has provided testimony in Committees 26 times on 22 SAM priority bills. Check out a new report – [2019 Legislative Session SAM Testimony Log 2-1-19](#) to see review all of the testimony provided up to this point.

Week 4 was busy with hearings on SAM Followed Bills. Review [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 4 Jan 28-Feb 2 Revised 1-30-19](#) to see the week's activity.

Upcoming Week 5 (Feb 4-Feb 9)

[SAM Followed Bills 2-1-19](#) are up to 80 with 251 bill drafts being monitored. Check out a new report – [SAM Followed Bills Priority Status 2-1-19](#) describing status of bills under the SAM advocacy priorities – Support Adequate and Equitable School Funding (16 bills), Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (4 bills), Oppose Privatization with Public Funds (0 bills), Support Facility and Technology Infrastructure (3 bills), and Support School Based Mental Health Services (2 bills).

Please checkout [SAMLN19 Schedule Week 5 Feb 4-9 Revised 2-1-19](#) to see the schedule of bills and the status of the SAM's - support, opposition or monitoring - during the upcoming committee hearings.

On Monday, Feb 4 [HB 225](#) (revise school laws related to inflation, preschool, and special education) the Governors K-12 funding bill is scheduled for hearing in the House Education Committee. This is a key SAM priority bill for Adequate and Equitable Funding and so activities are planned to support this bill.

- Monday, February 4 at 11:30 AM – 12 PM: **Rally for Montana's Future Leaders** – Governor's Reception Room. Governor Steve Bullock, Rep. Casey Schreiner will speak on the comprehensive school funding proposal, HB 225, along with school leaders and parents. Kids who are able to attend are encouraged to dress as what they want to be when they grow up. **Please contact Kirk Miller – samkm@sammt.org, if you are planning to attend the Rally.**
- Monday, February 4 at 3:00 PM: House Education Committee Hearing on HB 225 in Room 137. Any and all support from school administrators, teachers, parents, etc. would be great. **Please contact Kirk Miller – samkm@sammt.org, if you are planning to attend and provide testimony during the hearing.**

HB 225 will be a Call To Action bill for the SAMLN19 so be ready to contact the legislators on the House Education Committee.

Upcoming Legislative Events for Education

[MT-PEC Public Education Day on the Hill](#) is on Monday, February 11, 2019 at the Capitol in Helena. Check out the [Agenda](#) for this event and [Register](#) (no cost) to join us to advocate on behalf of our public schools and students!

[MT-PEC Day of Advocacy](#) is on Monday, March 18, 2019 beginning at the Helena Great Northern Hotel Convention Center and later at the Capitol. In our joint efforts of advocacy for our public schools and students, we ask trustees and administrators to travel to Helena to speak with legislators about the issues facing Montana's public schools. We invite you to [Register](#) (no cost) and bring your student trustee or student council leader. We will begin the day with a panel discussion with the leaders of MT-PEC, followed by a luncheon in the Montana State Capitol Rotunda with legislators. A reception with legislators will be held at MTSBA Headquarters to conclude this day of advocacy.

The tools to follow everything during the legislative session are ready for all SAM members to view and use by clicking on [2019 Legislative Session](#) under the 'Advocacy' tab on the SAM website (www.sammt.org).