

# SAMLN17 Calls to Action for HB 2, HB 390 and HB 376

## **SAMLN17 Schedule and CALLS TO ACTION for HB 2, HB 390 and HB 376**

1 message

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**Kirk Miller** <samkm@sammt.org>

Mon, Mar 20, 2017 at 8:06 PM

To: samln2017@sammt.org

Cc: "samkm@sammt.org" <samkm@sammt.org>, Pat Audet <sampa@sammt.org>, "DAcommittee@sammt.org" <DAcommittee@sammt.org>

Hi SAMLN17 Members,

I hope you had a great weekend! Many changes to the Legislative Committee Hearing Schedule happened over the weekend and today. Click [HERE](#) to see the schedule revised this evening. Suffice it to say that the changes have brought to our attention 3 bills that require **CALLS TO ACTION** for contacting legislators. Descriptions are below. Thanks for your advocacy work at this critical time of the session.

### [HB 390](#)

On Tuesday, 3/21 at 3:00 PM, the House Appropriations Committee will hear [HB 390](#). This bill with short title "Generally revise school funding laws" may become the bill in this session that is the vehicle to carry all education related items toward the end of the session (odds and ends amended into this bill to complete the package of what has been negotiated for education throughout the session). As it stands now, the bill has 2 sections ... Section 1 is procedures for determining eligibility and amount of increased ANB due to unusual enrollment increase and **Section 2 is the statutory appropriation for school technology purposes.**

Though we are not necessarily supporting Section 1, Section 2 is the language providing state matching funds for special construction under the federal E-Rate broadband program. This is **Resolution #16-09 – SUPPORT OF MINIMUM BANDWIDTH FOR SCHOOLS**, and is also a SAM Action priority for School Facilities and Technology Infrastructure. If the bill passes with Section 2 intact, this would allow the \$2 million in state technology for schools funding to be the state match to leverage \$20 million in broadband build through the E-Rate broadband program. Our META/SAM leadership worked with the Governor's office, Education SuperHighway (ESH), the Montana Telecommunications Association and others to create this opportunity.

So, with this background, this is a **CALL TO ACTION** to contact the House Appropriations Committee to **support** of Section 2 of HB 390 so that Montana has access to \$20 million (with discounts applied) in E-rate funds for broadband build over the next 2 years.

Click [HERE](#) to go to the web page where you can send a message to the entire committee at one time. About halfway down the page you will be able to

choose 'Committee' and then the specific committee (House Appropriations) from the Committees drop down list. *Once you click Send Message, click the Back button in your browser and change your committee selection. Then you won't have to retype all of the information again.* Click [2017 Legislators by School System 3-3-17](#) to see the legislators (and their contact info) representing your school district if you would like to also send a message to them. **Please send your message to the House Appropriations Committee prior to the hearing scheduled for 3:00 PM Tuesday afternoon, March 21.**

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### [HB 2](#)

On Wednesday 3/23 at 8:00 AM the Senate Finance and Claims Committee will hear HB 2 Section E (Education budget recommendations) and this is another chance (maybe last chance) to increase funding for Special Ed Allowable Costs. The Special Ed Allowable Cost in HB 2 is recommended to be \$42.9 million each year of the biennium -- this is the same as in the previous biennium -- no increase.

This is a **CALL TO ACTION** for you to contact the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and ask for their **support** of amendments to add special ed inflation funding and the special ed coop adjustment to HB 2. Click [HERE](#) to go to the web page where you can send a message to the entire committee at one time. About halfway down the page you will be able to choose 'Committee' and then the specific committee (Senate Finance and Claims) from the Committees drop down list. *Once you click Send Message, click the Back button in your browser and change your committee selection. Then you won't have to retype all of the information again.* Click [2017 Legislators by School System 3-3-17](#) to see the legislators (and their contact info) representing your school district if you would like to also send a message to them. **Please send your message to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee prior to the hearing scheduled for 8:00 AM Wednesday morning, March 22.**

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This is also a chance to have funding for the Montana Digital Academy added as an amendment. You recall that to date the Legislature has only funded 47% of the requested budget for the MTDA for the next biennium. If the Legislature ends up funding only about half of what MTDA needs to operate at its current level that could result in a cost of \$140 per enrollment for the next two school years. **You received an email from MTDA** staff (March 9) with a summary of recent enrollments number for your high school. Take the number of “# Enrollments - All Types” in the lower right hand corner of that document and multiply it times \$140. That could be the cost to your budget per year for the next two years. Can you afford that amount? The other possible options are reducing the number of course offerings, requiring a minimum enrollment count before a course will be guaranteed to be offered, or limit enrollments overall.

This is a separate **CALL TO ACTION** for you to contact the Senate Finance and Claims Committee and ask for their **support** of amendments to add funding for the MTDA to HB 2. Click [HERE](#) to go to the web page where you can send a message to the entire committee at one time. About halfway down the page you will be able to choose 'Committee' and then the specific committee (Senate Finance and Claims) from the Committees drop down list. *Once you click Send Message, click the Back button in your browser and change your committee selection. Then you won't have to retype all of the information again.* Click [2017 Legislators by School System 3-3-17](#) to see the legislators (and their contact info) representing your school district if you would like to also send a message to them. **Please send your message to the Senate Finance and Claims Committee prior to the hearing scheduled for 8:00 AM Wednesday morning, March 22.**

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## [HB 376](#)

On Monday, March 27 at 3:00 PM in Room 317 at the Capitol, the Senate Education Committee will hear HB 376, the bill to establish public charter schools. This is a SAM advocacy priority in opposition to privatization with public funds. This bill is bad public policy, unconstitutional creating another Commission to oversee charters in MT, ignores that public charter schools can already be formed through the Board of Public Education and administrative rule [10-55-604](#), and it really provides no solutions to solving the challenges of successfully educating children who are impacted by poverty. Killing this bill in the Senate Education Committee may be our best opportunity to put a stop to this request for bad public policy.

This is a **CALL TO ACTION** to generate testimony from administrators willing to come to Helena to testify on Monday afternoon in Opposition to HB 376. **Please respond to this email to let us know if you can come to give testimony in opposition to HB 376 by describing the innovation and flexibility you are currently experiencing in providing quality programs for your students.**

Beginning Friday, March 24 through Monday, March 27 prior to the 3:00 PM hearing it would be great to message the Senate Education Committee and briefly explain your opposition to HB 376.

Click [HERE](#) to go to the web page where you can send a message to the entire committee at one time. About halfway down the page you will be able to choose 'Committee' and then the specific committee (Senate Education Committee) from the Committees drop down list. *Once you click Send Message, click the Back button in your browser and change your committee selection. Then you won't have to retype all of the information again.* Click [2017 Legislators by School System 3-3-17](#) to see the legislators (and their contact info) representing your school district if you would like to also send a message to them. **Please send your message to the Senate Education Committee prior to the hearing scheduled for 3:00 PM Monday afternoon, March 27.**

Wow, thanks for your attention to these bills and advocacy effort!!  
Kirk and Pat

