

Hi SAMLN17 Members!

Several bills did not make it by transmittal (March 1) and so our list of bills we are tracking is now a little under 100, click [SAM Bills Still Active](#). You can follow the bills that are SAM advocacy priorities by clicking on the priority area ...

- [SAM School Funding Bills](#)
- [SAM Privatization with Public Fund Bills](#)
- [SAM Recruitment & Retention Bills](#)
- [SAM Special Ed Funding Bills](#)
- [SAM Facility and Technology Infrastructure Bills](#)

You are also able to see the bills that have successfully made through the session and signed by the governor, just click [SAM Bills Signed by Governor](#). All references to past info and what lies ahead, can be found on the [SAM Legislative Network 2017](#) webpage.

Highlights of Week 10 (Mar 6-10)

Click [SAMLN17 Schedule Week 10 Mar 6-10 Revised 3-9-17](#) to review the schedule of hearings. Here is brief update on key bills ...

[HB 2](#) Section E (Education) was heard in the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday 3/8 and SAM provided testimony to request addition of Special Education funding and funding for the Montana Digital Academy. The SAMLN17 participated in two Calls To Action, one for [Special Ed funding](#) and the other for [MTDA funding](#). Amendments to address both Special Education funding and MTDA funding were offered during Executive Action on Friday 3/10, but unfortunately they failed. Click [HERE](#) to see the info and votes on the amendments SAM promoted. More to come on the effort to include Special Ed funding and funding for the MTDA in this session.

HB 390 was heard in the House Education Committee on Friday 3/10. Information about HB 390 was included in an update email (see [Additional Information](#)) to the SAMLN17 on Thursday 3/9. The hearing on Section 2 of the bill to provide a state match that leverages up to \$20 million in E-Rate funds for broadband construction for Montana's schools, went very well. Thank you to our META members who were present to give testimony on this section of the bill.







Upcoming Week 11 (Mar 13-17)

Click [SAMLN17 Legislative Schedule Week 11 Revised 3-11-17](#) to see the hearings scheduled for the coming week! This will be a big week.



Monday 3/13 is the [Day of Advocacy](#), where 137 education leaders have registered to make our voice heard in the legislature. The day begins with insightful presentations on our progress thus far in the session and then proceeds with lunch in the Rotunda with legislators, House and Senate floor sessions, meetings with the Governor and State Superintendent, and a great schedule of committee hearing (see below), ending with a reception with your legislators that evening.

Monday 3-13-17 – Legislative Day 52



House Education Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
13-MAR-17	3:00 PM	137	SB 103  	Clarify education laws related to minimum aggregate hours and proficiency	Llew Jones (R) SD 9	Proponent
13-MAR-17	3:00 PM	137	SB 115  	Revising stipends for national board certified teachers	Mary Moe (D) SD 12	Proponent
13-MAR-17	3:00 PM	137	SB 307  	Revise K-12 school funding laws to address facilities	Llew Jones (R) SD 9	Proponent

House Appropriations Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
13-MAR-17	3:00 PM	102	HB 418  	Revise funding for career and vocational/technical education	Kelly McCarthy (D) HD 49	Proponent

Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor	Comments
13-MAR-17	3:00 PM	422	HB 487  	Revise youth athlete protection laws	Moffie Funk (D) HD 82	Monitor

In reviewing the hearing schedule above, please take note that Monday will be an important day for sending legislators a positive message about SB 307, SB 103, HB 418, and SB 115! Your review of these important pieces of legislation, and ability to speak of support with examples to your legislators throughout the day, has the ability to make a difference in passing these bills. Please take some time to review and thanks to all of you who are coming to the Day of Advocacy!

There are many bills through the rest of the week that you can see on the schedule will require our continued voice to keep them moving or to kill them.

General Information

Please use the SAM website (www.sammt.org) as a resource for all things legislative under ‘Announcements’, then ‘[2017 Legislative Session](#)’. All information for the SAMLN17 is posted under ‘[SAM Legislative Network 2017](#)’ on the webpage – including this first SAMLN Update.

Click on the items in [blue underline font](#) as they are links that will go directly to the item.

For a copy of the bills, click on the bill number (e.g. [HB 1](#)) or go to [LAWS](#).

All Bills being tracked by SAM can be found on the [SAM Bills 2017](#) webpage under [SAM General Bills](#).

[Contact a Legislator](#) site is on the [Legislative Session](#) webpage. You can use the [Online Message Form](#).

You may also watch or listen to [Live & Upcoming](#) meeting and hearings. Just click on the meeting or hearing that is on the schedule.

There has been much discussion on when and how it is allowable to advocate as a SAM member and school district employee, please read [SAMLN17 Rules of Conduct for Political Activity and Advocacy](#) to understand this.

Before giving testimony on a bill, please view [SAM "How To" Video - Providing Testimony at a Legislative Hearing](#).

Each of the links in this Update are on the [SAM Legislative Network 2017](#) website. Contact us if you have questions. We hope this background is helpful to you as you share information with your colleagues in your area!

Kirk and Pat