

Hi SAMLN17 Members!

Click [SAM General Bills](#) on the 2017 Legislative Session/SAM Bills 2017 webpage to review all of the bills and drafts and to see the stance of SAM (Proponent, Opponent, or Monitor) being taken on the bills that will be heard in Committees in the past and this coming week. You can review the status of bills in SAM's advocacy priorities at [SAM School Funding Bills](#), [SAM Privatization with Public Fund Bills](#), [SAM Recruitment & Retention Bills](#), [SAM Special Ed Funding Bills](#), and [SAM Facility and Technology Infrastructure Bills](#) with status update of each bill updated ongoing. At this point in the session we (Pat and I) have provided [testimony](#) 51 times on bills that are progressing through the process.

## Highlights of Week 9 (Feb 27-Mar 3)

Click [SAM Legislative Update – Transmittal 3-3-17](#) to review the highlights of Week 9 and the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the session. The work you have done has helped SAM priorities move through the session. Please know that you do make a difference!

Also, understand that transmittal for general bills was March 1 and you will see when reviewing the status it may indicate a given bill 'Missed Deadline for General Bill Transmittal' and that means the bill is dead (sort of – keep reading). Other given bills, like [HB 32](#), may indicate 'Tabled in Committee\* -- (H) Appropriations', which does not yet mean the bill is dead. Bills with revenue or appropriations have until March 30 to be transmitted. So, in the case of [HB 32](#), it could come off the table and have action to move it along. It may also be amended into another bill with a general education title and remain alive and moving through the session in this manner – this happens every session. Just wanted you to have some background to know that a bill is really never 'dead' until 'sine die' on the last day of the session and it has not been amended into another bill. So, kind of, everything proposed thus far in the session is still alive, some would just require open heart surgery to flow once again (maybe a silver bullet to get it out of committee and to the floor of the House or Senate), or at least CPR to be amended into the work on another bill. We will be monitoring all SAM advocacy priorities that have any chance of remaining in play, and will seize the day to resurrect one of our priorities until the last day of the session!

## Upcoming Week 10 (Mar 6-10)

Click [HERE](#) to review the SAMLN17 Legislative Schedule (Updated 3-6-17) for the coming week!

The week has started slow as expected with the House and Senate on break today and easing their way back into the work tomorrow. We will be reporting changes in the SAMLN17 Legislative Schedule as they occur.

At this point in the session, no attention has been paid to the budget of the Montana Digital Academy, thus the result would be a reversion back to the base, a cut of about 47% of what was provided in the last biennium. You can expect to see some information about this sometime Tuesday, March 7. Support for the Montana Digital Academy is a position of SAM, so we will be working to see if we can get some attention to help retain a reasonable budget to continue the equitable services the MTDA provides to all schools across our state – one might even call this a very good "choice" in the whole "school choice" dialogue!

## General Information

Please use the SAM website ([www.sammt.org](http://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.

# SAMLN17 Legislative Update 9: Week 10 (Mar 6-10) 3-6-17

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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*