

School Administrators of Montana



Visionary leaders united in providing, advocating, and creating education excellence for Montana students!

MACSS Meeting – February 15, 2017

SAM was organized as an association of administrators in 1970. It represents the interests, aspirations, and professional leadership of Montana administrators. Over 1000 members network under six affiliate associations ([MASS](#), [MAEMSP](#), [MASSP](#), [MCASE](#), [MACSS](#), [META](#)) to promote GREAT Montana Schools, supporting leader's passion for providing an outstanding education to Montana's children!

SAM Strategic Plan Goal Areas

1. Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership
2. Advocacy
3. Professional Learning and Services

Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership

- Indicators of outstanding comprehensive education and high performance in Montana's schools.
- Focus attention on the value our public schools bring to each community.
- Setting a shining example of blending the SAM Strategic Plan with advocacy to cultivate a culture of collaboration, alliances and partnerships in the best interest of Montana's children!
- Active participation by SAM members in research and implementation of issues impacting education – [Montana ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#), [HB 374 Suicide Prevention Workgroup](#), Special Ed Coop Funding Task Force, Content Standards Committees, Montana Early Childhood Education, [Chapter 57 flexibility in educator licensure review](#), AdvancED accreditation, and others.
- Cooperating with partners in the development of – [RISE4MT](#) educator recruitment and retention effort, [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#), [Montana Educator Performance Appraisal System \(EPAS\)](#), [EducationSuperHighway](#) Broadband Access Initiative, Montana K-12 Connectivity Workgroup, [Montana Farm 2 School](#) Task Force, [Montana Afterschool Alliance](#) Steering Council, Montana Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Workgroup, Montana CSPD Stakeholder Group.

Advocacy

- SAM members will be equipped with accurate information and are prepared to advocate for public education.
- Collaboration between education associations (MASBO, MEA-MFT, MQEC, MREA, MTSBA, SAM) formed the Montana Public Education Center ([MT-PEC](#)) creating a positive impact and strong voice on education policy issues.
- Proactive relationships with the Governor's office, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System, Montana Legislators, Congressional Delegation, and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- Working closely with the K-12 Vision Group and MT-PEC to establish areas of focus for the 2017 legislative session and education advocacy issues.

(over)

Advocacy (continued)

- [SAM Delegate Assembly](#) has developed a long range understanding of Positions and Resolutions creating an action plan for advocacy at the state and federal level (DA Steering Committee process). Delegate Assembly met on June 16-17, 2016 creating advocacy recommendations. SAM membership approved the SAM advocacy package at the SAM Business Meeting on October 20, 2016. [SAM Legislative Network 2017](#) is active. Follow the SAM's [2017 Legislative Session](#) webpage.
- [SAM Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions Approved 10-20-16](#) by the SAM membership:
 - Support Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators (Recruiting Incredible School Educators [Rise4Montana](#)). Emphasis on public school health insurance costs
 - Oppose Privatization with Public Funds
 - Support [Special Education Funding Adequacy and Equity](#). [MCASE Advocacy Talking Points](#).
 - Support Capital Facilities/Technology Infrastructure Needs
- SAM members' leadership and participation in the development of the [MT ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#) for implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a high priority - 18 of the 38 [stakeholders](#) are SAM members. Stakeholder meetings – May 25-26, September 26, October 24, and November 10 developed a [Draft Plan](#). Public [comment](#), led to the [Final Plan](#) off to USED on 12/28/16.
- SAM is working closely with partners in the education community on challenges in the implementation of the SB 410 Tuition Tax Credit bill (2015 legislative session) in association with the [MQEC](#).
- [School Funding Interim Commission \(SFIC\)](#) – Communicated with Commission members offering support for accomplishing their charge. Met on September 23, 2015 adopting a work plan that included the SAM and MT-PEC priorities. Meetings held on January 11-13, April 4-5, May 3-5, and June 13 continued focus on 1) Recruitment/Retention, 2) District Structure & Equity, 3) Facilities, and 4) Special Ed Funding. Final meeting on August 29 approved a [final report](#) which SAM and MT-PEC acknowledged but indicated that the report falls short of adequacy and equity to develop the full potential of every child through the basic system of elementary and secondary schools.
- [Federal advocacy](#) for the implementation of ESSA, support of the increased funding of IDEA, led the charge with Montana's congressional delegation and national associations to request USED address the burden created in completing the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) biannual report, E-Rate and Broadband access for schools, and the REST Act and NEST Act rural educator recruitment legislation.

Professional Learning and Services

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
- SAM 21st Century Leadership Institute and Mentor Programs are aligned to form the [SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program \(LPLP\)](#), expanding professional learning opportunities for 34 Montana administrators in 2016-17. Review progress at [SAM LPLP 2016-17 Mid Year Executive Summary](#).
- [#SAMedchat](#) – weekly Twitter chat group on Thursdays, 7-8 pm. Please feel free to join in!
- [SAM website](#) - a one stop repository for member resources. Social media resources.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 13 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the [Conferences](#) tab on the website.
- SAM implementing new association management software, upgrading website and tools for members.
- Member benefits: Affiliate regional meetings, SAM Bulletin and weekly SAM Updates, colleague networks, state and federal advocacy networks, legal assistance, professional liability insurance, technology embedded solutions including website, cloud-based solutions, use of social media to communicate effectively, many more...
- [MCEL 2016 –GREAT III](#) publication was followed by [GREAT IV](#) (see the video by clicking [HERE](#)) with many learning opportunities for all education leaders at MCEL on October 19-21, 2016.
- [SAM Administrators Institute](#) provided great learning opportunities our entire membership – theme for [SAM AI 2016](#) was “Leadership of Transformation Change for the Whole Child”!
- [SAM 2015-16 Membership Report](#) was 987, a record. Great work affiliate leaders! [SAM Membership Report 2016-17 Quarter 2](#) shows 1008 members so far, a new record, with each affiliate increasing!