

MASSP Environmental Scan of Current Conditions, Trends, Assumptions about the Future, and Mega Issues 10-17-18



Key Factor: Demographics (*SH, SB, SZ-H for KP*)

Demographics Current Conditions

- Urban schools getting bigger, rural schools getting smaller
- Homogenous populations, minus the seven reservations
- Small increase in the overall state student, public school population

Demographics Trends

- Urban areas are growing significantly
- Populations moving to the western part of the state
- Number of AA, A and C schools increasing, # of B schools decreasing
- Increase in students in special education, in poverty, not living with their parent

Demographics Assumptions About the Future

- Schools will consolidate resources to prevent/delay consolidating schools
- Urban areas will continue to grow
- The need for services will continue to increase
- Students in special education, in poverty, not living with their parents will continue to increase
- Retirements will be on the rise

Demographics Barriers

- Geographical isolation
- Teacher shortages statewide
- Aging population of teachers

Demographics Mega Issue Questions

1. How can we maintain a high level of staff excellence in the face of increased retirements and a decline of qualified applicants?
2. How can we deal with the increasing populations in urban areas, and the decreasing populations in rural areas?
3. How are we going to deal with the cyclical growth and decline of student population?

Key Factor: Business/Economic Climate (*SH, SB, SZ-H for KP*)

Business/Economic Climate Current Conditions

- Urban areas are booming
- Skilled trade jobs are increasing, medical jobs
- Inadequate state and federal funding for all level

Business/Economic Climate Trends

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of skilled laborers
- Funding inadequacies will continue

Business/Economic Climate Assumptions About the Future

- Funding inadequacies will continue
- Schools will attempt to prepare students to meet the demand of the skilled labor market
- Population will put increased demands on social services, schools, hospitals, etc.
- Cost of living will continue to increase at a rate higher than the wages will allow

Business/Economic Climate Barriers

- State and Federal government funding
- Current political climate - polarized
- Lack of access to programs that train skilled laborers

Business/Economic Climate Mega Issue Questions

1. How do we develop adequate support for community-based services including schools?
2. How do we equalize funding sources for all schools/communities in Montana?

Key Factor: Legislation/Regulation (JH, JH, PH)

Legislation/Regulation Current Conditions

- Privatization
- Safety & security
- Funding (SPED)

Legislation/Regulation Trends

- High Stakes testing
- Mental health issues/challenges
- Security of schools (guns in school)
- School choice
- Pre-K

Legislation/Regulation Assumptions About the Future

- Funding free/public education (privatization of funds)
- Push for arming staff in schools
- Unfunded mandates (/SPED funding)

Legislation/Regulation Barriers

- Lack of funds for special education mandates
- Funding free/public education (privatization of funds)
- Every Student Succeeds Act implementation
- Divisiveness

Legislation/Regulation Mega Issue Questions

1. How can we support SAM and legislatures in advocating for public education?
2. Will funding be provided to meet the needs of ALL students?
3. How can we meet the needs of all students (academic, social, emotional, mental health, safety)?

Key Factor: Technology/Science (SH, JG, DG, SW)

Technology/Science Current Conditions

- Rapidly Changing Environment -
- “App” Based
- Hands On / Project Based

Technology/Science Trends

- 1 to 1 - Personal Devices (BYOD)
- Consistent Platform School-wide: Google, Apple, ...
- Wireless
- On-line Text Books

Technology/Science Assumptions About the Future

- Students will continue to provide/own “Own Device” - Phones...
- Tech skills will start Pre-K
- Access to Teacher Provided Resources (Flipped Learning) “Outside the Classroom”
- Growing Options for Curriculum “Outside the School” - Dual Credit, MTDA

Technology/Science Barriers

- Financial
- Infrastructure Problems for High Speed Internet
- Quickly Outdated Tech - \$ Invested
- Professional Development

Technology/Science Mega Issue Questions

1. How do we keep “School” Curriculum ‘Relevant’ with available resources?
2. How do we stay current: 1) Devices 2) Infrastructure 3) Availability
3. How do we keep Staff Equipped: 1) Professional Development 2) Tools

Key Factor: Politics/Social Values (SH, JG, DG, SW)

Politics/Social Values Current Conditions

- Divided Political Population
- Limited Resiliency with Students

Politics/Social Values Trends

- “Fun” and “A” vs “Quality Education”
- Media (Social Media) Influencing Education

Politics/Social Values Assumptions About the Future

- Media influence is here to stay- platforms will continue to change
- Students will have more influence on the political/social platform

Politics/Social Values Barriers

- Access and Exposure to False or Contradictory Information
- Constant “Questioning” of authority
- Reluctance for educators to discuss current social “Issues”

Politics/Social Values Mega Issue Questions

1. How do educate students to be “Open Minded” learners?
2. How do we teach students to “Question” and/or “Debate” in a respectful and civil manner?
3. How do we successfully promote the importance of public education?