

School Administrators of Montana



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

OPI New Special Director Orientation – August 17, 2018

SAM was organized as an association for administrators in 1978. It represents the interests, aspirations, and professional leadership of Montana administrators. Over 1050 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!

The [SAM Strategic Plan](#) outlines the benefits being a SAM member affords each education leader through their contributions to the greater good of the education community to inspire our students...

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

Professionalism, Integrity and Leadership

- AKA – SAM members working together to literally have a seat at the table (input) on all efforts that impact the education of Montana's children.
- 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!
- In 2017-18 and continuing into 18-19, SAM members have established a strong voice for the actions on: [Montana ESSA Plan](#), [Suicide Prevention](#), PK-12 School Funding Adequacy and Equity, K-12 Vision Group, [Interim Education Committee](#) Priorities, [Preschool](#), [Montana EPAS](#) (Educator Performance Appraisal System, [Broadband Access Initiatives](#), [META Website Accessibility Project](#), Study of Special Education Funding and Services ([HJ 1](#) 2017 legislative session), Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators ([RISE4MT](#), [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#), and others), and [Montana Digital Academy](#) to name a few!

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, Board of Public Education, State Superintendent and OPI, Montana University System and a wide range of education stakeholders.
- [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](#), [SAM Legislative Network](#)). Delegate Assembly met on June 14-15, 2018 creating recommendations for [SAM's Advocacy Priorities, Positions and Resolutions](#).

- [SAM Advocacy Priorities 18-19](#) provide direction for SAM Advocacy in upcoming 2019 Legislative Session.
- [Federal Advocacy](#) efforts and relationships with the Montana Congressional Delegation are important.

Professional Learning and Services

- Professional learning opportunities for educational leaders aligned with best practices research and innovative strategies.
- The [SAM Leaders Professional Learning Program \(LPLP\) 18-19](#) is a best practices professional learning delivery system that personalizes learning for Montana administrators now in its fifth year. Over this time, the development of the delivery system has led to over 69 administrators in the 2017-18 program working in [Collegial Learning Networks](#) with coach/mentors to personalize a professional learning plan that will enhance their ability to serve their students, school and community!
- [SAM Administrators Institute 2018](#), “Empowering Students - Focusing on Leadership of Personalized Learning, Social Emotional Learning, and Information Security”, provided great learning opportunities for our entire membership. SAM AI 19 is scheduled for July 29-31, 2019 in Helena!
- [MCEL 2018](#) (October 17-19, 2018) “Be an Agent of Change” will be in Missoula and is geared for deeper focus on the professional learning opportunities, less distractions from business and exhibitors, and strong motivation, so plan to attend this newly developed conference.
- [#SAMedchat](#)—weekly chat group to dialogue about key education issues-7:00-8:00 every other Tuesday starting September 25, 2018.
- The [SAM website](#), a one-stop repository for member resources! Check it out!
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 12 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the ‘Professional Learning’ ‘[Conferences](#)’ tab on the website
- 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, E-Lists, digital [Community Forums](#) to enhance member communication, many more...

Contemporary Issues of Today

- [SAM Delegate Assembly Advocacy Package prepared for SAM Business Meeting on 10-19-18](#)
- [SAM Legislative Network 2019](#)
- [MT-PEC Project Safe Schools](#)
- Student Mental Health Issues, [Emergency Planning](#), and [Suicide Prevention](#)
- Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT Update](#)
 - [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#)
- [Montana ESSA Plan](#)
- [Federal Advocacy](#)
- [Montana School Broadband Project](#)
- [SAM LPLP 2018-19](#)
- [MASS/MCASE Fall Conference 2018](#) – September 17-18, 2018 in Bozeman
- [MACSS Fall Conference 2018](#) – September 20-21, 2018 in Dillon
- [SAM Youth Endowment](#) – Online nomination form will be available soon.
- [SAM Needs Assessment 2018](#) – Please watch for FY19 SAM Needs Assessment coming in December!

Make sure to follow us on Twitter - [SAM @MTEDLeadership](#) and on Facebook at [Sam Montana](#)