

School Administrators of Montana



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

MCEL 2017 – Contemporary Issues in Montana Education – October 19, 2017

SAM was organized as an association for administrators in 1978. 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!

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, 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), [Montana Afterschool Alliance](#), [Montana Farm to School Leadership Team](#), [Broadband Access Initiatives](#), 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 15-16, 2017 creating recommendations for SAM's Advocacy Priorities.
- [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 \(LPLP\)](#) is a best practices professional learning delivery system that personalizes learning for Montana administrators. Four years of developing this delivery system has led to over 65 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 2017](#), “Leadership of Transformational Change & Personalized Learning to Impact the Whole Child”, provided great learning opportunities for our entire membership.
- Plans are complete to renew and develop an outstanding [MCEL 2017](#) (October 18-20, 2017). The venue is moved to downtown Billings at the Northern Hotel and Double Tree Hotel. Innovative technology and general session speakers will invigorate and motivate our Montana education leaders!
- [#SAMedchat](#)—weekly chat group to dialogue about key education issues-7:00-8:00 every other Tuesday.
- The [SAM website](#), a one-stop repository for member resources, has been fully upgraded.
- SAM annually assists in the operation of 12 conferences creating learning opportunities for our members. See the ‘Professional Learning’ [‘Conferences’](#) tab on the website. MASSP and MAEMSP have scheduled a joint Montana Principals Conference scheduled for April 4-6, 2018!
- SAM implemented 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, E-Lists, digital Committees to enhance member communication, many more...

Contemporary Issues of Today

- State Revenue Shortfall and the Impact on Montana Schools – SAM [Advocacy Issues 2017-18](#)
- [SAM Delegate Assembly 2017 Business Meeting Recommendations \(no mark up\) 10-19-17](#)
- Recruitment and Retention of Quality Educators Update
 - [RISE4MT Update](#)
 - [MUS Rural Educator Recruitment and Retention Task Force](#)
- Montana [ESSA Implementation](#) and [ESSA Montana Plan 2017 School Administrators - Leadership and Support for your District](#) guidance.
- Student Mental Health Issues, Emergency Planning, and [Suicide Prevention](#)
- Montana Information Security Project and OCR ADA Website Compliance
- [Montana School Broadband Project](#)
- [SAM LPLP 2017-18](#)
- [MCEL 2017](#) – Release of GREAT Montana Schools – Zogby Survey
- [Montana Principals Conference 2018](#) – April 4-6 at Fairmont – Joint effort of MASSP and MAEMSP
- [SAM Youth Endowment](#)