



School Funding Interim Commission

69th Montana Legislature

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JOLANDA SONGER, Secretary

AGENDA

School Funding Interim Commission
July 20-21, 2026 Room 172, Montana Capitol and Zoom

Note: Agenda times are approximate. Some agenda items may require more or less time than indicated.

Monday July 20

- 8:00 a.m. Call to order – roll call – *Chairman Bedey*
- 8:05 Review updated work plan and meeting agenda – *Commission staff*
- 8:10 Successful School District (SSD) Study – *Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, and Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA Consulting (via Zoom)*
- Revised SSD foundation amount
 - Spending pattern comparison between SSD and non-SSD
 - Adequacy ranges based on student/district adjustments/weights
 - Design of a foundation formula (AKA weighted-student formula)
 - Cost estimates and comparison to current MT funding
 - Committee discussion/questions
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Possibilities for student-based adjustments in current formula – *Commission staff*
- Revising and increasing the At-Risk payment
 - Establishing a funding formula component for English Language Learners
 - Committee discussion/questions/direction
- 11:30 Various follow-up – *Commission staff*
- 12:00 p.m. Recess for lunch
- 1:00 Lessons from other states in overhauling school funding formulas
- *Dr. Amanda Brown – Vice President, APA Consulting*
 - *Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, APA Consulting*
 - *Daniel Thatcher, JD – Senior Fellow, Education, National Conference of State Legislatures*
 - *Mike Griffith – School Finance Consultant*

- 2:00 Special education funding findings, recs, provisional bill draft, and considerations
- Staff paper – *Pad and Kate*
 - Commission questions/discussion/direction
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 School facilities findings, recs, provisional bill draft, and considerations
- LFC/MARA work update – *Kris Wilkinson and Joe Triem, LFD*
 - Staff paper with information and options – *Pad and Kate*
 - State bond guarantee concept – *Dan Villa, Director, Board of Investments*
 - Commission questions/discussion/direction
- 4:30 Follow-up as needed with APA – *Justin Silverstein, Co-CEO, and Dr. Amanda Brown, Vice President, APA Consulting*
- 5:00 Public comment
- 5:30 Recess for the day

Tuesday July 21

- 8:00 a.m. Call to order – *Chairman Bedey*
- 8:05 Inflation findings, recs, provisional bill draft, and considerations
- Staff paper – *Pad and Kate*
 - Commission questions/discussion/direction
- 9:15 SFIC statute and ongoing Phase I provisional bill drafts
- Staff review of provisional bill drafts – *Laura*
 - Commission questions/discussion/direction
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Commission work session #1 on final report – *Commission staff*
- Table of possible findings/recs
 - Commission questions/discussion/direction
- 12:00 p.m. Recess for lunch
- 1:00 Commission work session #2 on final report – *Commission staff*
- Basic outline
 - Draft “chapters”
 - Remaining questions
 - Commission discussion and direction to staff for August (final) meeting
- 3:30 Public comment
- 4:00 Adjourn

Public Participation

The public may attend the meeting and offer public comment in the Capitol or provide public comment either using remote meeting technology or in writing.

To offer public comment via remote meeting technology, please submit the online form for remote participation at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of the meeting: <https://participate.legmt.gov/>.

Written public comment may be submitted either through the [online form](#) for written comment or by mailing the comments to School Funding Interim Commission, PO Box 201706, Helena, MT 59620.

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