K-12 Vision Group Legislative Priorities Implicated by our Vision (Updated 8/18/16)

We support:

- Any and all initiatives/proposals that will advance the interests of public school students as described in our vision for the success of Montana's public schools herein;
- Implementation of formula-based early childhood education through expansion of the definition of pupil to include 4 year olds in a half day program;
- Ensuring a meaningful state role in guaranteeing the adequacy and quality of public school facilities;
- Ensuring public schools' success in recruiting and retaining quality teachers and administrators to serve students in Montana's public schools;
- Consideration of accountability measures implemented only as necessary to ensure transparency and public confidence in how tax revenues are spent, with equal application of such measures to all schools receiving public support of any kind;
- A mechanism to guarantee that the state's share of special education is annually adjusted by inflation as called for in the Legislature's definition of quality schools in 20-9-309, MCA;
- Increased flexibility in calculating school districts' maintenance of effort obligations to recognize all support of special education in such calculation; and
- Implementation of formula-based support of technology in Montana's public schools in alignment with the Legislature's definition of quality schools in 20-9-309, MCA.

We oppose:

- Any proposal that seeks to infringe on the constitutional rights afforded Montana's Citizens under Article X of the Montana Constitution, including but not limited to direct and indirect public appropriation or payments in support of private, parochial education;
- Any public support of private nonreligious schools through direct or indirect means while the state's compliance with its constitutional obligations under Article X of the Montana Constitution is incomplete.