

***BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA***

***July 28, 2025***

***ZOOM***

# **AGENDA**

# BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

**July 28, 2025**

**Zoom Webinar**

*Board of Public Education meetings are open to the public electronically. For those wishing to give virtual public comment, please contact [bpe@mt.gov](mailto:bpe@mt.gov) to request the zoom link for the meeting. To watch the meeting streamed live, please visit the Montana Board of Public Education [Youtube](#).*

**Monday July 28, 2025**

**12:00PM**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Roll Call
- C. Statement of Public Participation
- D. Welcome Visitors

## **ADOPT AGENDA**

### **❖ ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – Renee Rasmussen (Items 1-2)**

- Item 1** ACTION ON AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON REVISIONS TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, EARLY NUMERACY INTEGRATION FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR AND TITLE 10, CHAPTER 63, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STANDARDS – 5 Minutes, page #6  
Renee Rasmussen
- Item 2** ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF ADOPTION PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, EARLY NUMERACY INTEGRATION FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR AND TITLE 10, CHAPTER 63, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION STANDARDS, AND AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER – 5 Minutes, page #8  
McCall Flynn

\*\*\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION\*\*\*\*\*

### **❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Dr. Tim Tharp (Items 3-4)**

- Item 3** DISCUSSION ON LEGAL COUNSEL STRATEGY – 15 Minutes, page #17  
Dr. Tim Tharp
- Item 4** ACTION ON LEGAL COUNSEL STRATEGY – 5 Minutes, page #18  
Dr. Tim Tharp

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

*This time will be provided for public comment on items not listed on the agenda. This meeting is open to the public both in person and electronically. For those wishing to give virtual public comment, please contact [bpe@mt.gov](mailto:bpe@mt.gov) to request the Zoom link for the meeting. Members of the public who have joined virtually on Zoom may “raise their hand” at the appropriate time to participate after being recognized by the Board Chair. Members of the public who wish to share written public comment with the Board members must submit written public comment to the Executive Director at [bpe@mt.gov](mailto:bpe@mt.gov) no later than two*

*(2) business days before the start of the meeting. Any written public comment received after this deadline will be shared with the Board members after the meeting. All written public comment will be included as part of the official public record.*

## **ADJOURN**

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*The Montana Board of Public Education is a Professional Development Unit Provider. Attending a Board of Public Education Meeting either in person or via Zoom may qualify you to receive professional development units. Please complete the necessary information on the sign-in sheet if you are applying for professional development units.*

*Agenda items are handled in the order listed on the approved agenda. Items may be rearranged unless listed "time certain". Public comment is welcome on all items listed as "Action" and as noted at the beginning and end of each meeting.*

*The Board of Public Education will make reasonable accommodations for known disabilities that may interfere with an individual's ability to participate in the meeting. Individuals who require such accommodations should make requests to the Board of Public Education as soon as possible prior to the meeting start date. You may write to: Kris Stockton, PO Box 200601, Helena MT, 59620, email at: [kmstockton@mt.gov](mailto:kmstockton@mt.gov) or phone at 406-444-0302.*

## **CALL TO ORDER**

- A. Pledge of Allegiance**
- B. Roll Call**
- C. Statement of Public Participation**
- D. Welcome Visitors**

❖ **ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE – (Items 1-2)**

**Renee Rasmussen**

**ITEM 1**

**ACTION ON AND RESPONSE TO PUBLIC  
COMMENTS SUBMITTED ON REVISIONS  
TO ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, EARLY  
NUMERACY INTEGRATION FOR THE 2025-  
2026 SCHOOL YEAR AND TITLE 10,  
CHAPTER 63, EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION STANDARDS**

**Renee Rasmussen**

**Board of Public Education  
Early Numeracy Integration and Early Childhood Education Standards  
Public Comment-Compiled**

**10.63.110 EARLY LEARNING DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAINS AND  
CONTENT STANDARDS**

*Note: The number of comments may not match the number of commenters, as many made comments on multiple sections, and comments are compiled based on “like themes” as indicated below.*

**COMMENT 1:** Two commenters proposed revising the sequence of the developmental domains listed in the Early Childhood Education Standards, specifically ARM 10.63.110(2) and proposed moving Mathematics and numeracy standards before Creative arts standards, so that Mathematics and numeracy standards follow English Language Arts and Literacy standards. The remainder of the sequence would remain unchanged.

*The public comment deadline in the adoption of ARM 10.54.903 and amendment of ARM 10.63.110 pertaining to Early Numeracy Integration and Early Childhood Education Standards closes on July 25, 2025 at 5PM. Should the Board of Public Education receive comments after the agenda packet is posted, but prior to the public comment deadline, the agenda packet will be updated.*

## ITEM 2

ACTION ON THE PROPOSED NOTICE OF  
ADOPTION PERTAINING TO RULEMAKING  
IN ARM TITLE 10, CHAPTER 54, EARLY  
NUMERACY INTEGRATION FOR THE 2025-  
2026 SCHOOL YEAR AND TITLE 10,  
CHAPTER 63, EARLY CHILDHOOD  
EDUCATION STANDARDS, AND  
AUTHORIZE FILING OF THE NOTICE WITH  
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
PUBLICATION IN THE MONTANA  
ADMINISTRATIVE REGISTER

McCall Flynn





**MONTANA  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
REGISTER**



**BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION**

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**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

**MAR NOTICE NO. 2025-215.1**

**Summary**

Amendment of ARM 10.63.110 and adoption of NEW RULE 1 pertaining to Early Numeracy Integration and Early Childhood Education Standards

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**Hearing Date and Time**

Friday, July 18, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

**Virtual Hearing Information**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/81441368113>

**Comments**

Comments must be received by Friday, July 25, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

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**Accommodations**

The agency will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities who wish to participate in this rulemaking process or need an alternative accessible format of this notice. Requests must be made by Friday, July 11, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

## Contact

McCall Flynn  
(406) 444-6576  
bpe@mt.gov

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## General Reasonable Necessity Statement

The Board of Public Education proposes to adopt NEW RULE 1 and to amend ARM 10.63.110 to revise the Early Childhood Education Standards to comply with HB 338 (2025) prior to the 2025-26 school year. The Early Literacy Advisory Council, created by the Board of Public Education, recommended the proposed rule in order to address the short turnaround between the end of the legislative session and start of the upcoming school year, while maintaining the intent of the legislation, which was to increase the number of children who are proficient in reading and math at the end of third grade. NEW RULE 1 will be adopted as ARM 10.54.903.

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## Rulemaking Actions

### AMEND

The rule proposed to be amended is as follows, stricken matter interlined, new matter underlined:

### 10.63.110 EARLY LEARNING DEVELOPMENTAL DOMAINS AND CONTENT STANDARDS

- (1) The following early learning developmental domains represent the foundational skills all students need to be successful learners. The development of communication, language, and literacy skills supports the growth in all other domains of development. All developmental domains are applicable for public preschool programs and early literacy targeted interventions implemented through the classroom-based program for 4-year-olds and summer jumpstart program preceding kindergarten.
  - (a) The language domain includes communication and comprehension in oral and written language.
    - (i) Language instruction includes opportunities for students to develop:
      - (A) receptive language, wherein students use listening and observation skills to make sense of and respond to spoken language and other forms of communication; enter into the exchange of information around what is seen, heard, and

experienced; and begin to acquire an understanding of the concepts of language that contribute to learning;

- (B) expressive language, wherein students develop skills in using sounds, facial expressions, gestures, and words, such as to help others understand their needs, ask questions, express feelings and ideas, and solve problems;
  - (C) social language, wherein students develop skills to interact and communicate with others in effective ways; and
  - (D) support for dual language speakers, wherein students receive support in their home language(s) while becoming proficient in English.
- (ii) Literacy instruction includes opportunities for students to develop:
- (A) written language, wherein students build an understanding and interest in the symbols, sounds, and rhythms of written language and develop awareness that the printed word can be used for various purposes;
  - (B) written communication, wherein students develop interest and skill in using symbols as a meaningful form of communication;
  - (C) print awareness, wherein students build an understanding that print carries a message through symbols and words and that there is a connection between sounds and letters (the alphabetic principle); and
  - (D) speech development, wherein students develop an awareness of the sounds of letters and the combination of letters that make up words and use this awareness to manipulate syllables and sounds of speech.
- (b) The social and emotional domain includes culture, family, community as well as social and emotional development.
- (i) Culture, family, and community skills instruction includes opportunities for students to develop:
- (A) an awareness of and appreciation for similarities and differences between themselves and others;
  - (B) an awareness of the functions and diverse characteristics of families; and
  - (C) an understanding of the basic principles of how communities function, including work roles and commerce.

- (ii) Social development skill instruction includes opportunities for students to:
    - (A) develop trust, emotional bonds, and interact comfortably with adults;
    - (B) interact and build relationships with peers; and
    - (C) develop skills in cooperation, negotiation, and empathy.
  - (iii) Emotional development skills instruction includes opportunities for students to:
    - (A) develop an awareness and appreciation of self as a unique, competent, and capable individual;
    - (B) demonstrate a belief in their abilities;
    - (C) manage internal states, feelings, and behavior, and develop the ability to adapt to diverse situations and environments; and
    - (D) express a wide and varied range of feelings through facial expressions, gestures, behaviors, and words.
- (c) The physical domain includes development of motor skills and instruction in health, safety, and personal care.
  - (i) Motor skills instruction includes opportunities for students to develop:
    - (A) small muscle strength, coordination, and skills;
    - (B) large muscle strength, coordination, and skills; and
    - (C) use of their senses to explore the environment and develop skills through sight, smell, touch, taste, and sound.
  - (ii) Health, safety, and personal care skills instruction includes opportunities for students to develop:
    - (A) personal health and hygiene skills as they develop and practice self-care routines;
    - (B) healthy eating practices by eating a variety of nutritional foods;
    - (C) healthy behaviors through physical activity; and
    - (D) an awareness and understanding of safety rules as they learn to make safe and appropriate choices.
- (d) The cognitive domain includes approaches to learning.
  - (i) Approaches to learning skills instruction include opportunities for students to develop:

- (A) curiosity through imagination, inventiveness, originality, and interest as they explore and experience new things;
  - (B) initiative and self-direction through engagement in new tasks and to take risks in learning new skills or information;
  - (C) persistence and attentiveness with the ability to focus their attention and concentration to complete tasks and increase their learning;
  - (D) reflection and interpretation skills in thinking about their learning in order to inform their future decisions; and
  - (E) reasoning skills in causation, critical and analytical thinking, problem solving, and representational thought.
- (2) The following early learning content standards are aligned to the Montana K-12 Content Standards and highlight what students should know, understand, and be able to do upon entering kindergarten. All early learning content standards are applicable for public preschool programs while only the English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics and Numeracy Content Standards apply to early literacy targeted interventions implemented through the classroom-based program for 4-year-olds and summer jumpstart program preceding kindergarten.
- (a) English Language Arts and Literacy standards include:
    - (i) early reading, wherein students develop an understanding, skill, and interest in alphabet knowledge using the symbols, sounds, and rhythms of written language;
    - (ii) print development and writing, wherein students demonstrate interest and skill in using symbols as a meaningful form of communication;
    - (iii) speaking and listening, wherein students use phonemic and phonological awareness to identify and play with individual sounds in spoken words; and
    - (iv) language, wherein students develop the ability to communicate with others to build relationships, share meaning, and express needs.
  - (b) Creative arts standards include:
    - (i) creative movement wherein students produce rhythmic movements spontaneously and in imitation with growing technical and artistic abilities;
    - (ii) drama, wherein students show appreciation and awareness of drama through observation, imitation, and participation in simple dramatic plots;

- (iii) music, wherein students engage in a variety of musical or rhythmic activities; and
  - (iv) visual arts, wherein students demonstrate a growing understanding and appreciation for the creative process and visual arts.
- (c) Mathematics and numeracy standards include:
  - (i) number sense and operations, wherein students develop the ability to think and work with numbers, to understand their uses, and describe their relationships through structured and everyday experiences;
  - (ii) measurement concepts, wherein students use measurement instruments to explore and discover measurement relationships and characteristics, such as length, quantity, volume, distance, weight, area, and time;
  - (iii) mathematical skills in data analysis, wherein students count, sort, and compare objects;
  - (iv) initial algebraic thinking and operations, wherein students identify, describe, produce, and create patterns using mathematical language and materials; and
  - (v) geometric and spatial reasoning, wherein students build the foundation for recognizing, creating, and manipulating shapes, and learning spatial reasoning and directional words as they become aware of their bodies and personal space in their physical environment.
- (d) Science standards include:
  - (i) scientific thinking and the use of the scientific methods through investigation using their senses to observe, manipulate objects, ask questions, make predictions, and develop conclusions and generalizations;
  - (ii) an understanding of and compassion for living things;
  - (iii) an understanding of the physical world, the nature and properties of energy, and nonliving matter;
  - (iv) an understanding of the earth and planets; and
  - (v) an understanding of engineering as the process that assists people in designing and building.
- (e) Social studies standards include:
  - (i) an understanding of the concept of historical time, including past, present, and future;

- (ii) knowledge of geographical places and regions by understanding that each place has its own unique characteristics and the reciprocal effect individuals have with the world around them; and
  - (iii) awareness of their natural world, including the environment and our interdependence on the natural world.
- (f) Technology standards include:
  - (i) an understanding of technology with awareness of technological tools and developmentally appropriate exploration of the ways to use these resources.

**Authorizing statute(s):** Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, 20-2-114, 20-7-101, 20-7-1803, MCA

**Implementing statute(s):** Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, 20-7-101, 20-7-117, 20-7-1803, MCA

## **ADOPT**

The rule proposed to be adopted is as follows:

### **NEW RULE 1 (10.54.903) EARLY NUMERACY INTEGRATION FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR**

- (1) A local school district that administered the evaluation methodology for early literacy targeted interventions in accordance with ARM 10.54.901 in preparation for the 2025-2026 school year may admit qualified students in the classroom-based program for 4-year-olds.
- (2) The early targeted interventions may include both English Language Arts and Literacy and Mathematics and Numeracy Content Standards as described in ARM 10.63.110(2).

**Authorizing statute(s):** Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, 20-2-114, 20-7-101, 20-7-1803, MCA

**Implementing statute(s):** Mont. Const. Art. X, sec. 9, 20-7-101, 20-7-117, 20-7-1803, MCA

### **Small Business Impact**

The board adopts rules that primarily impact teachers, administrators, and school district operations. The board works in cooperation with public schools across the state to implement the rules that are adopted. Given that the board does not work directly with small businesses, the small business impact analysis performed as required indicates that no small businesses are likely to be directly impacted by the proposed rule changes.

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### **Bill Sponsor Notification**

The bill sponsor contact requirements apply and have been fulfilled. The primary bill sponsor was contacted by email on May 7, 2025.

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### **Interested Persons**

The board maintains a list of interested persons who wish to receive notices of rulemaking actions proposed by this agency. Persons who wish to have their name added to the list shall make a written request that includes the name, email, and mailing address of the person to receive notices and specifies for which program the person wishes to receive notices. Notices will be sent by email unless a mailing preference is noted in the request. Written requests may be mailed or delivered to the contact person above or may be made by completing a request form at any rules hearing held by the board.

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### **Rule Reviewer**

McCall Flynn

### **Approval**

Dr. Tim Tharp

Board Chair



**\*\*\*\*\*CLOSED SESSION\*\*\*\*\***

**❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – (Items 3-4)**

**Dr. Tim Tharp**

**ITEM 3**

**DISCUSSION ON LEGAL COUNSEL  
STRATEGY**

**Dr. Tim Tharp**

**\*\*\*\*\*OPEN SESSION\*\*\*\*\***

**ITEM 4**

**ACTION ON LEGAL COUNSEL**  
**STRATEGY**

**Dr. Tim Tharp**