



Education and Local Government Interim Committee

63rd Montana Legislature

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The following resolution was adopted by the Education and Local Government Interim Committee at its meeting on September 16, 2014:

WHEREAS, we believe that preschool programs provide a valuable addition to early childhood learning in some circumstances;

WHEREAS, certain school districts and individuals have created high-quality preschool programs of their own initiative;

WHEREAS, the ability to modify and alter these programs without interference from the state has resulted in the creation and delivery of high-quality programs that have been very responsive to the children and communities that they serve;

WHEREAS, we believe that the final decision to utilize a preschool program rests exclusively with the parents and/or guardians of said children;

WHEREAS, the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education have proposed an extensive set of accreditation standards for all preschool programs operating throughout the state;

WHEREAS, if implemented these standards will eliminate the ability for private preschool programs to compete with state-funded preschool programs;

WHEREAS, we believe any new initiative should, as the Governor states, "build on early childhood strengths, not replace them";

BE IT RESOLVED, that this committee opposes the new accreditation standards for Title 10, Chapter 63 of the Administrative Rules of Montana as proposed by the Office of Public Instruction and the Board of Public Education.

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