

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

GREG GIANFORTE
GOVERNOR



KRISTEN JURAS
LT. GOVERNOR

January 12, 2023

Board of Public Education
P.O. Box 200601
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Members of the Board of Public Education:

As you consider revisions to ARM 10.55 "Standards of Accreditation," I encourage you to adopt the recommendations from the Office of Public Instruction to add one half-unit of civics or government and one half-unit of economics or financial literacy as a requirement for high school graduation.

There is a clear, growing need for civics and personal finance education in our high schools. When students graduate, they should be well prepared and well equipped for their lives and for the opportunities that await them.

Our Montana students should graduate with a demonstrated understanding of the U.S. system of government and the rights and responsibilities of being a citizen in our constitutional republic.

They should also graduate with a demonstrated knowledge of personal finance, understanding budgeting, paying bills, paying taxes, saving, and navigating debt. Our state ranks 29th in terms of guaranteeing students access to personal finance courses, and we should do better by our students to ensure they're financially literate.

As you consider many changes to school accreditation rules to improve student outcomes and eliminate red tape, adding civics and personal finance course requirements will help ensure our students receive the best education possible to prepare them for their future. Thank you for your service to the people of Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg Gianforte".
Greg Gianforte
Governor