

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
BUDGET AND PROGRAM PLANNING
STATE OF MONTANA



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GOVERNOR

PO Box 200802
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December 30, 2008

Dear Board of Education Members:

The Office of Budget and Program Planning has received inquiries from legislative staff as to how the Administration complies with the 'unified budget' section found in Article 10, Section 9 of the Montana Constitution. The constitution states that the Board of Education (BOE) shall submit unified budget requests. The constitution does not say to whom such requests are to be presented or when such requests are to be made.

In Section E of the Executive Budget, the education agencies' portion of the Governor's Budget are presented and from the perspective of the Administration constitute the unified budget for these agencies.

Section E includes the following agencies:

- Office of Public Instruction
- Board of Public Education
- Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
- Montana Arts Council
- Montana Historical Society
- Montana State Library
- Montana University System

The Governor's full budget is available on line at <http://mt.gov/budget/>, with Section E at http://mt.gov/budget/budgets/2011_budget/OBPP_E.pdf. For purposes of the Unified Budget, please refer to the link dated December 15, 2008, at the budget website which explains changes to the November 15 Governor's Executive Budget recommendations.

If the BOE has questions, feel free to contact Suzan Scott (444-4895) sscott2@mt.gov or Nancy Hall (444-4899) nhall@mt.gov.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ewer".

David Ewer, Director
Office of Budget and Program Planning

Cc: Linda McCulloch, superintendent of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Steve Meloy, Board of Public Education
Sheila Stearns, Commissioner of Higher Education
Richard Sims, MT Historical Society
Steve Gettel, MT School for the Deaf and Blind
Arlynn Fishbaugh, MT Arts Council
Darlene Staffeldt, MT State Library
Jan Lombardi, Governor's Office