



**Board of Trustees
Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting**

September 9, 2026 – 12:00 PM

This meeting will occur at the Lincoln Center (1325 Poplar St., Helena, MT 59601) and via Microsoft Teams

To participate remotely, please use this link on Microsoft Teams:

<https://teams.microsoft.com>

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the time for comment on public matters that are not on the agenda. Public matters do not include any pending legal matters, private personnel issues, or private student issues. Please do not attempt to address such issues at this time or you will be ruled out of order. The Board cannot enter into a discussion during General Public Comment.

IV. REVIEW OF MINUTES

Review of 6/16/26 Teaching & Learning Committee Meeting Minutes

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- A. Assessment Update
- B. Assessment Task Force for MAST
- C. 26-27 Curriculum Work
- D. Summer PD recap

VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

VII. ADJOURNMENT



Board of Trustees
Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2026
12:00 p.m.
Lincoln Center and TEAMS

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Trustees: *Others:*

Jenny Murnane Butcher, Trustee	Candice Delvaux, Executive Assistant
Siobhan Hathhorn, Trustee	Taylor Lassiter, Communications Specialist
Janet Armstrong, Trustee	Jane Shawn, HEA President
	Rex Weltz, Superintendent
	Josh McKay, Assistant Superintendent
	6-12
	Dr. Justine Alberts, Assistant
	Superintendent PreK-5
	Dr. Kaitlyn Hess, Data and Federal
	Programs Director
	Gary Myers, Director of Educational
	Technology
	Erin Hunt, C.R. Anderson Assistant
	Principal
	Keri Mizell, Human Resources
	Director

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no general public comment.

III. REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were requested to the agenda.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed and accepted the minutes from the April 22, 2026, Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting.

V. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

A. Advanced Report Responses

The Committee reviewed the District's responses and planned actions related to recommendations from Dr. Plucker's Advanced Learning Report. Administration discussed current practices and next steps related to differentiation, acceleration, advanced coursework, PEAK services, professional development, and the identification and screening of advanced learners. Plans for the upcoming school year include a differentiation audit, continued Universal Design for Learning training, increased involvement of PEAK specialists in building-level PLCs, and additional support for teachers in providing enrichment and acceleration opportunities. Administration discussed current practices for using student data to identify students who may benefit from accelerated or advanced coursework, while continuing conversations with students and families regarding placement. The District will also adjust the PEAK high school service model to provide periodic project and engagement opportunities while allowing specialists to increase support at the elementary and middle school levels.

The Committee also reviewed updates to the referral and universal screening process. Administration discussed the pilot of the Naglieri assessment and plans to explore local norms as another tool for identifying students who may otherwise be overlooked. The updated referral process incorporates additional teacher and parent input and greater involvement from school-based teams. Trustees discussed opportunities to provide advanced instruction within students' home schools, the importance of maintaining grade-level rigor while providing acceleration, and the staffing and resources necessary to provide differentiated instruction. The Committee also discussed continued training and support for teachers and paraprofessionals. Trustees expressed interest in monitoring implementation of the report recommendations and the impact of expanded identification practices on PEAK services and staffing. Dr. Alberts addressed questions from the Teaching and Learning Committee regarding the information presented.

B. End-of-Year Academic Data

The Committee reviewed end-of-year academic data for early learning, elementary, middle school, and high school students. Administration reported that 76% of KinderSprouts participants were entering kindergarten at or above benchmark, with parent survey results reflecting positive experiences with the program. Kindergarten and elementary reading proficiency remained generally steady, and administration highlighted positive student growth associated with the implementation of UFLI. The District plans to expand UFLI in kindergarten and explore additional literacy supports for grades 3–5. Elementary reading and mathematics proficiency remained generally consistent with previous years. Administration noted that District results were above Montana and national norms in both reading and mathematics. Discussion also addressed the difference between proficiency and growth and the importance of considering factors such as attendance, student mobility, and individual student starting points when evaluating academic performance. At the secondary level, administration reviewed middle

school mathematics data and ongoing curriculum work. The District is piloting Carnegie mathematics in grades 6–9 to strengthen curricular alignment between middle and high school. High school MAP, PreACT, and ACT data were also reviewed, including how the assessments can be used to monitor student progress toward ACT college-readiness benchmarks.

Administration reviewed recent changes to ACT scoring and reporting and noted that final District ACT results remained above the state average. The Committee also discussed the need to better connect Montana standards, District curriculum, and ACT expectations so teachers and students have a clearer understanding of college-readiness expectations. Trustees discussed the importance of providing continued growth opportunities for students who are already proficient. Trustees also requested that future academic reporting include attendance and student mobility data to provide additional context for student performance. Dr. Kaitlyn Hess, Data and Federal Programs Director, addressed questions from the Teaching and Learning Committee regarding the information presented.

VI. BOARD/SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

Superintendent Weltz noted that the District’s ACT college-readiness results compare favorably with state and national performance. The Board and Superintendent discussed educational funding and the connection between resources, staffing, teacher morale, and student achievement. Superintendent Weltz expressed optimism about the District’s academic direction, highlighting the PreK–3 focus and alignment of mathematics instruction from middle through high school. He emphasized the importance of documenting the District’s progress and maintaining a clear focus moving forward.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 p.m. by Trustee Jenny Murnane Butcher.

Helena Public Schools Assessment Calendar 2026-2027		
Elementary Assessment Windows		
Assessment	Window(s)	Grades
i-Ready/Acadience/myIGDIs (District Benchmark)	Fall: Aug 31-Sept 25 Winter: Jan 4-22 Spring: May 17-June 4	preK: myIGDIs, Acadience PELI K: Acadience Math/Reading 1st: Acadience Reading/i-Ready Math 2nd-5th: i-Ready
Naglieri General Ability Test (PEAK Screener)	March 8-19 March 22-26 (make-ups)	2nd
Youth Needs Screener (Character Strong)	Fall: Sept 21-25 Spring: Jan 19-22	All
Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST)	Window 1: Oct 19- Dec 11 Window 2: Jan 11-Mar 5 Window 3: Mar 29-May 21	3rd-5th
Montana Science Assessment (MSA)	May 3-21	5th
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alt ELA & Math	Fall: Sept 14-Dec 18 Spring: Feb 1-May 21	3rd-5th
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alt Science	Feb 1-May 21	5th
WIDA Access (EL Proficiency)	Jan 4-Mar 5	All
Middle School Assessment Windows		
Assessment	Window(s)	Grades
i-Ready (ELA & Math) (District Benchmark)	Fall: Aug 31-Sept 25 Winter: Jan 4-22 (optional) Spring: May 17-June 4	All
RBHI Mental Health Screener	CRA: Sept 15-17, Sept 22-24, Oct 20-22; Jan 26-28, Feb 9-11, Feb 16-18 HMS: Sept 22, Sept 29, Oct 6; Jan 26, Feb 2, Feb 9	All
Montana Aligned to Standards Through-Year (MAST)	Window 1: Oct 19- Dec 11 Window 2: Jan 11-Mar 5 Window 3: Mar 29-May 21	All
Montana Science Assessment (MSA)	May 3-21	8th
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alt ELA & Math	Fall: Sept 14-Dec 18 Spring: Feb 1-May 21	All
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alt Science	Feb 1-May 21	8th
WIDA Access (EL Proficiency)	Jan 4-Mar 5	All
High School Assessment Windows		
Assessment	Window(s)	Grades
MAP (ELA/math) (District Benchmark)	Fall: Aug 31-Sept 18 Winter: Dec 7-18 Spring: April 5-23	9th & 10th Spring 9th only
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alt ELA & Math	Fall: Sept 14-Dec 18 Spring: Feb 1-May 21	11th
Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM) Alt Science	Feb 1-May 21	11th
WIDA Access (EL Proficiency)	Jan 4-Mar 5	All
preACT and ACT	Apr 6-16 (ACT April 7th)	10th and 11th
RBHI Mental Health Screener	CHS: Sept 23-24, Sept 29-Oct 1; Mar 10-11, 16-18 HHS: Oct 6-9, 13; Feb 2-5, 9 PAL: Sept 23-24; Jan 26-27	All
Semester Testing	Semester 1: Jan 20-22 Semester 2: June 7-9	All