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Education Interim Committee
65th Montana Legislature

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TO: Education Interim Committee Members
FROM: Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney
DATE: January 20, 2018
RE: Administrative Rule Review – January 2018

The following memo summarizes the administrative rulemaking action that has taken place since the committee last met in August 2017:

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MAR Notice No. 10-64-279

[Final Notice of Amendment](#): This committee received information about the proposed changes to rules governing school bus requirements at the June 2017 meeting. The Board of Public Education (BPE) has adopted the amendments to the requirements without any changes from how the amendments were proposed. The final notice includes BPE's response to three public comments submitted in response to the proposal notice. The rules were adopted and took effect as of October 14, 2017.

MAR Notice No. 10-64-281

[Notice of Proposed Amendment](#): This notice proposes an amendment to the rule changes adopted in October regarding school bus requirements (see above). After hearing feedback from bus contractors and districts regarding the expense of installing crossing control arms, BPE proposes to change the requirement for that equipment from mandatory to permissive. BPE does not plan to hold a public hearing for this amendment. The deadline to submit public comments was 5pm last Friday, January 19, 2018. BPE will hold a conference call meeting this week to address the public comments that were submitted, and the final notice of adoption is likely to be published in February.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

MAR Notice No. 10-13-128

[Final Notice of Amendment](#): The proposed amendments to rules regarding traffic education were presented to this committee at the last meeting in August 2017. Since

then, the Superintendent has adopted these amendments as proposed. The rule changes took effect on September 22, 2017 and there were no public comments or testimony submitted regarding the amendments.

MAR Notice No. 10-1-128

[Notice of Negotiated Rulemaking](#): The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has established a negotiated rulemaking committee to consider amendments to ARM 10.55.701, to require school districts to adopt a suicide prevention program. Applications for membership on the committee were due October 23, 2017, and the committee was to begin meeting in November. Committee members were selected based on representation of the following criteria: cultural diversity; geography; suicide prevention experience; district and school size; and grade levels served.

The committee will begin with an initial draft of the proposed amendments and will work to achieve consensus on the proposal. The committee will provide a report to OPI specifying the areas in which the committee reaches consensus along with any remaining unresolved issue. From there, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will present recommendations to BPE for formal rulemaking.