



Board of Public Education

RESOLUTION

BOARD MEMBERS

APPOINTED MEMBERS:

Dr. Tim Tharp, Chair
Savage

Dr. Ron Slinger, Vice Chair
Miles City

Madalyn Quinlan
Helena

Julia Maxwell
Marion

Renee Rasmussen
Clancy

Lisa Schmidt
Conrad

Dr. Hannah Nieskens
Cardwell

Lydia Comstock, Student Rep.
Great Falls

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Clayton Christian,
Commissioner of
Higher Education

Susie Hedalen,
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Greg Gianforte,
Governor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

McCall Flynn

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Public Education recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming education, and therefore, has established an Artificial Intelligence and Technology Special Committee; and

WHEREAS, AI technologies are reshaping instruction, assessment, administration, and student learning across Montana's schools and offers opportunities for greater efficiency, personalized learning, and improved instructional practice, yet also presents ethical, equity, privacy, and academic integrity challenges; and

WHEREAS, AI literacy and responsible technology use are essential to preparing Montana students for postsecondary success and participation in an evolving workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Public Education affirms that AI should enhance, not replace, the professional judgment, creativity, and human connection provided by educators and believes that any guidance or policy framework on AI in education must remain a living document, updated as technology, practice, and law evolve; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Public Education acknowledges the "Montana Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education Guidelines," developed by the Office of Public Instruction in partnership with the Montana Digital Academy and statewide education stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Public Education recognizes these Guidelines as a foundational and flexible framework to support best practices, guide local decision-making, and promote responsible AI use;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montana Board of Public Education encourages all Montana school districts and educational institutions to use the Guidelines to inform local policy, professional learning, and implementation, grounded in the state's values of equity, privacy, transparency, human-centered learning, and respect for tribal sovereignty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Montana Board of Public Education supports ongoing educator professional development, AI literacy, data-informed evaluation, and continuous review of local practices as technologies and research evolve and encourages continued collaboration among K-12 schools, higher education institutions, and workforce partners to ensure coherent, future-ready AI education pathways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will monitor national and state-level developments in AI policy and ethics to ensure Montana's educational practices remain current and compliant; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board requests the Office of Public Instruction to report annually on AI integration in Montana's public schools, including emerging issues, successes, challenges, and recommended updates to the Guidelines or statewide support structures.

RESOLVED BY THE MONTANA BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ON JANUARY 15, 2026.

Dr. Tim Tharp
Chairperson
Board of Public Education