

Regionalization Working Group
May 12, 2004

Brian Talbott:

Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, Washington or Oregon are the best possibilities for peer states. All have models that would work best for developments in Montana.

Suggestes video conferencing to work with other states.

Mississippi new law funded by 501(c)3 similar to Ohio. It may not match up as well but is still valuable because of needs being met.

Not as many operations currently in place. Will make it easier to transition into a new system.

BRIAN TO SEND INFO: Colorado, Ohio, Mississippi, South Dakota

South Dakota is currently moving forward with eight regions. Will be full service regions. Very new and emerging group.

Vision Net sites all over the state/nation to utilize for interacting with peer states.

BRIAN AND KRIS TO SCHEDULE MEETINGS WITH PEER STATES.

BRIAN WILL HELP FACILITATE MEETINGS, ESTABLISHING BACKGROUND, AND FORMULATING CORRECT QUESTIONS.

Burke wants a document that already lists questions. BRIAN WILL LOOK.

Ron: Study on cost effectiveness for regionalization. Would be valuable.

BRIAN: Has some studies and will get them to the group.

Madalyn: Linda Peterson knows Funding. Title II a and Title V. \$50,000 (roughly) available this summer to establish the effort.

BRIAN: Secretary's Discretionary money is possibly available.

Needs....see doc.

Draft Recommendations/statement:

Every School district be assigned to a legally established regional service are even though participation is voluntary.

Schools should feel ownership and not a burden for participation in the regional service area.

Communication amongst every school in the service area is vital to the success of the area.

Establish boundaries to ensure geography is not a barrier to participation.

Success of special ed coops is voluntary, helps students, preserves integrity of local district, geography, and financial savings. Very important emphasis on efficiency and cost savings.

Overcome the isolation many Montana's districts face. Note the benefits for all levels of education.

Governance structure that maximizes the education opportunity for each student.:

Funding mechanism to consider current structures and how they can be changed to create new structure.

Future of County supt. Regional service areas can contract with county gov't to provide services.

Incentive driven model for buy in.

Meet federal mandates of nclb and idea.

RSA's will not stop districts from collaborating on other items the group is trying to foster geographic.

RON: State has a funding system for coops. Travel expenses, etc.

NEXT:

KRIS AND STEVE AND BRIAN WORK TOGETHER ON: Several items.

Update: NEEDS and Draft Policy Statements get them out the door.

Write: meeting notes.

Questions:

Funding
Governance
Voluntary
Size

June 1,2,3 for video conferencing.

Call brian may 13.