

Making Big Investments in Education

A quality public education system is critical to our economy, our democracy, and our future. That's why Jon went to the mat for Montana's public schools and forced folks on both sides of the aisle to pass a funding bill that will invest in students, support educators, and increase local control.

We delivered some big wins for Montana:

\$600 MILLION FOR HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

access in rural and underserved areas. This won't just benefit schools, it will also help more students access online resources from home.

\$15 BILLION IN TITLE I FUNDING

to support disadvantaged and underperforming students in the classroom. Title I funding supports schoolwide or targeted assistance programs in almost 600 schools across Montana.

\$2 BILLION IN TITLE II FUNDING

to recruit, retain, and train teachers and principals. Montana received \$9.67 million in Title II funding last year.

\$1 BILLION IN TITLE IV FUNDING

to improve student health, provide a well-rounded curriculum, and upgrade technology. These grants help schools and school districts fund school-based counseling and mental health services.

\$250 MILLION FOR PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

grants to enhance state preschool program infrastructure and quality. Montana is one of the biggest beneficiaries of this funding.

\$1.2 BILLION FOR LEARNING CENTERS

that provide before school, after school, and summer programs that so many families rely on. There are currently 143 different 21st Century Community Learning Centers across Montana.

\$12.28 BILLION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

and accommodations for students with disabilities. This is a good start, but when Congress originally passed the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) it promised to cover 40% of the excess cost. However, federal funding for IDEA has never exceeded 20%. That's why Jon recently introduced a bill requiring the federal government to pay its fair share of IDEA funding.



\$1.4 BILLION IN IMPACT AID

funding to schools serving Native American children, military children, and other children in districts with federal activity that reduces their tax base. Jon also helped reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools program, which compensates forested counties with federal land for lost revenue due to declining timber production.

\$9.8 BILLION FOR HEAD START

which provides educational, nutritional, and social services to children ages 0-5. There are more than 100 different Head Start, Early Head Start, and American Indian Head Start Centers across Montana.

\$5.2 BILLION FOR CHILD CARE

and Development Block Grants that help low-income families pay for preschool and day care. This is more than double last year's total funding for CCDBG, the largest single-year increase in the program's history. In Montana, CCDG funding goes towards Best Beginnings Scholarships.

