



February 9, 2022

Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council  
46 N Last Chance Gulch, Suite 2B  
PO Box 200601  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Chairman Elder and Members:

It is critical to the success of our schools that our education leaders be supported in their work to increase student success through educational improvements. Our students deserve the best quality education Montana can offer and to do so, we must collectively have their future success in mind. When our Montana schools are given the opportunity to advance our students will follow. It is our job as leaders to provide resources that allow for advancement in standards, not a decline.

As we all work together to serve Montana students, the focus on the addition of equity language into the code of ethics calls into question the understanding of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council (CSPAC) and its role. The purpose of CSPAC is in an advisory capacity only and is not a policymaking authority. I believe we must make clear the authority of this board is to report to the Board of Public Education.

I agree with Governor Gianforte. It is unfortunate that some in education instead of leading are choosing to follow the failed policies from other parts of the country where their politics do not represent Montana values. I implore you to join me in putting Montana children first and removing politics from our classrooms. We can and must do better.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elsie Arntzen".

Elsie Arntzen  
State Superintendent

Cc: Board of Public Education

