



MREA Membership Benefits?

Although small and rural schools enroll only about 35% of all Montana public school students, they make up about 85% of all school districts in Montana. 'Strength in numbers' has never meant more than it does when state and federal policy decisions are being made. Rural schools need a voice in these decisions. MREA is that voice.

MREA exclusively represents small and rural public schools in Montana

- MREA represents all issues for Montana rural schools. When there can be common ground with all schools, MREA will be at the table. But when there are differences between what benefits rural schools and more urban schools in Montana, MREA will always strongly and exclusively represent Montana small schools, particularly MREA members.

Provides information from a clear, informed, and small/rural perspective

- MREA always uses the lenses of small and rural schools when informing members about key educations that effect Montana schools. Whether it be implications of federal action, court decisions, or Montana legislative action MREA always reports on what it means to Montana small and rural schools.

MREA legal services have experience and focus on small and rural schools in Montana

- Whether or not a rural school in Montana specifically enlists the legal services available through MREA membership, the MREA legal counsel has the experience with issues specific to rural schools to assist in guiding MREA in legal matters.

MREA represents only rural schools in the Legislative process

- MREA has a different tax status than most education associations that allows us to lobby in a manner they can't. MREA has secured the services of an experienced professional lobbyist that will give us a far greater political influence in the legislative process that often is driven by decisions made behind the scenes.

Under the leadership of the new Executive Director, MREA will be able to provide invaluable assistance and information in a wide variety of areas not available from any other source in Montana:

- Licensure Issues
- General Accreditation
- Variance to Standards of Accreditation
- Funding for K students under the age of 5
- Alternative education frameworks and funding
- ESSA Implementation
- Dual enrollment
- Use of MTDA and other online educational services
- BPE rule making process and rural school implication
- Representation in Helena for members with specific OPI related topics

MREA provides highly competitive purchasing options for a wide variety of 'big ticket' purchases through the Montana Cooperative Services (MSC) program under the MREA umbrella.