

# MONTANA STATE READING COUNCIL

## LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY COUNCIL AWARD

### 2011-2012

The Montana State Reading Council will present an annual Legislative Advocacy Award to a local council at the annual State Reading Conference. The award will be a check for \$100 to the local council with the most Congressional and/or Legislator visitations.

#### *Montana State Reading Council Position Statement*

- That equality of educational opportunity regardless of their geographic location is a constitutional right of all Montana students;
- That the state must provide a funding system which provides adequate funds for all students in Montana;
- That the “Local control” provided to school boards in the Montana Constitution be realized in all aspects of school district proceedings;
- That MSRC supports the Montana Content and Performance Standards adopted by the Board of Public Education, provided sufficient state funding is available for implementation of the standards; and
- That MSRC is opposed to the “forced consolidation” of school districts.  
(Forced consolidation is legislative, administrative or executive action taken at the state or regional levels that mandates the consolidation of school districts.)

#### *Suggested Strategies*

- Tell your legislative visitor(s) how you can be an ongoing resource
- Be Positive
- Know your facts
- Make your message your own
- Tell a compelling story

#### *Criteria*

- That local reading council members invite a Congressional member(s) and/or state legislator(s) to schools within their council geographic area.
- That local reading councils discuss the MSRC advocacy position statement with the Congressional and/or legislative visitor.
- That the local council president will by **October 1**, provide written notification of the visit(s) to the MSRC Legislative Advocacy Chairperson.

#### **SEND TO:**

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**DUE: October 1, 2011**