ECS names Montana Gov. Steve Bullock as its 46th chair

DENVER — Montana Gov. Steve Bullock has been elected as the 46th chair of the Education Commission of the States. He will serve as chair-elect until his two-year term begins at the 2015 National Forum on Education Policy.

Gov. Bullock will assume the leadership position from Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval. As a non-partisan organization, the ECS chair alternates between Democratic and Republican governors every two years.

“I have been truly fortunate to serve as ECS chair at a time when education policy is so important to our states,” said Gov. Sandoval. “As I enter the final year of my chairmanship, I am thrilled that Montana Gov. Steve Bullock has been elected as the next chair. Gov. Bullock has shown himself to be a leader in education in his state and the nation, and I look forward to working more closely with him over the next year.”

A Montana native, Gov. Bullock has made education a priority since he was elected in 2013. He has focused on the full education spectrum — from preschool to higher education — by working to bolster early childhood learning and to guide more adults toward college degrees.

“It’s an honor to be elected chair of ECS. Education is a top priority for me, and the work ECS does helps not only Montana students, but students all across our nation,” said Gov. Bullock. “Together, we can continue to provide our children with a world-class education.”

The governor believes that the quality of our nation’s education system is directly connected to economic growth, and an investment must be made to prepare students for life in the 21st century. In Montana, high school graduation rates are up and dropout rates are down. He has committed to increasing the number of adults in the state with a postsecondary degree or professional certificate from 40 percent to at least 60 percent over the next decade.

Gov. Bullock’s education priorities include:

- Investing in early education and creating more high-quality programs for the youngest students.
- Offering more college classes to high school students by helping institutions expand and enhance dual-credit programs.
- Creating a universal postsecondary enrollment system to allow students access to courses at one university even if they attend another.
- Proper funding of the state’s higher education institutes in an effort to slow rising tuition rates and make it possible for all families to afford college.

The governor also is committed to returning state lottery funds to public education, improving technology in the classroom and helping students transition into the workforce.

“Gov. Bullock’s leadership will be extremely important in helping to guide how ECS can best serve state education leaders from across the country,” said ECS President Jeremy Anderson. “As the ECS chair-elect, Gov. Bullock will work with ECS Chair Brian Sandoval in providing governors, legislators, chief state
school officers and higher education officials from across the country with state-of-the-art education policy information. We are excited to have Gov. Bullock helping to lead ECS in the future.”

*ECS was created by states, for states, in 1965. We track policy, translate research, provide unbiased advice and create opportunities for state policymakers to learn from one another.*