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## ESSA Update: Montana's ESSA Plan Has Been Approved!

1 message

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Cc: "Hedalen, Susie" <Susie.Hedalen@mt.gov>

Fri, Jan 19, 2018 at 5:49 PM

Hello ESSA Stakeholders,

Superintendent Arntzen spoke with Secretary DeVos this afternoon about Montana's ESSA plan. The Secretary has approved of our plan! The below press release will be going out shortly but we wanted to be sure to let you know first. Thank you for your dedicated efforts in helping create this plan that puts Montana students first. We look forward to continuing to work with you in implementing our state plan.

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### U.S. Secretary of Education Approves Montana's ESSA Plan

January 19, 2018

HELENA—U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced today that she has given her approval to Montana's state plan under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Superintendent Arntzen spoke on the phone with Secretary DeVos this afternoon about Montana's plan.

"I want to recognize all of the Montana parents, educators, and business, tribal, and community leaders who helped create Montana's ESSA plan," Superintendent Arntzen said Friday. "Now that Montana's plan has been approved, I look forward to working with communities to fully implement it and ensure that all Montana students have the opportunity to succeed."

Montana's ESSA plan will:

- Support academic growth in all of Montana's unique student populations
- Engage families and communities in positive academic transitions
- Promote local control and flexibility
- Raise mental health and suicide prevention awareness
- Drive focus on STEM and CTE education at earlier ages
- Increase student awareness of opportunities to be community, career, and college ready
- Help recruit and retain high-quality teachers, especially in our rural communities

Montana's ESSA plan has received support from diverse stakeholders across the state, including:

U.S. Senator Steve Daines  
Governor Steve Bullock  
The Montana Parent Teacher Association  
The Montana Rural Education Association  
The Montana School Counselors Association  
The Montana School Boards Association  
MEA-MFT  
School Administrators of Montana

The Montana Quality Education Coalition

Montana's approval letter is attached. The Department of Education's press release can be found at: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USED/bulletins/1d477fe>

More information about Montana's ESSA plan can be found at: <http://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Academic-Success/Every-Student-Succeeds-Act-ESSA>

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 **ESSA Plan Approval-ED.pdf**  
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