

MONTANA SMALL SCHOOLS ALLIANCE aka: MSSA

Today's OBJECTIVES

- ▶ **Define MSSA and it's purpose.**
- ▶ **Acquaint new and veteran County Superintendents with MSSA.**
- ▶ **Present an overview of each program.**
- ▶ **Familiarize MACSS members with the MSSA website.**
- ▶ **Invite MACSS members to apply for the Jules Waber Award and to attend MSSA Professional Development workshops.**

MSSA is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization established in 1996.

Founders: Claudette Morten, Rural Ed Center, WMC-UM
Michael Schulz, WMC-UM
Rachel Vielleux, Missoula County Superintendent of Schools
Boyd Dressler, MSU-Bozeman

MONTANA SMALL SCHOOLS ALLIANCE GUIDING PURPOSE

TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE MEMBER GROUPS AND THE SMALL SCHOOLS OF MONTANA TO ACHIEVE A HIGHER LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE, MANAGEMENT, TEACHING, LEARNING AND TEACHER EDUCATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF MONTANA'S CHILDREN, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND COMMUNITIES.

2021–2022 MSSA Executive Board

Dr. Jayne Downey, College of Education, MSU–Bozeman
Professor Laura Straus, University of Montana Western
Dr. Erin Lipkind, MACSS President
Carolyn Hall, MACSS At–Large Representative
Vacant – MTSBA

MSSA STAFF

2021 - 2022

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

Linda Marsh

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MSSA Programs and Services

- Consortium Membership
 - Teacher Professional Development Trainings
 - Rural School Board Policies
 - Rural School Curriculum
 - Title IIA Language for E-Grant Applications & Project Final Reports
- Standards Program
 - Library
 - Guidance
- NWEA-MAP Assessments Program
 - Free August Training for teachers
 - Reduced Fees for Testing Services

Continued...

- NREA/NREAC Membership
 - Montana and Federal Advocacy for Rural Schools
 - Student Essay Contests
 - NREA Mini-Grants for Teachers
 - National Rural Teacher of the Year Program
- Annual Rural Schools Financial Survey
 - Office Manager compiles data
 - Participating Districts receive a copy of yearly report
- MSSA Scholarships and Awards
 - Individual and District Scholarships
 - Jules Waber Travel Award

Consortium Services

Professional Development	Rural School Board Policies	Rural Schools Curriculum
Four Workshops per year at four different sites– Sept, Nov, Feb, and April, or via Zoom	Model School Board Policies for Rural Schools	Contracted rural teachers review/revise curriculum based on our review schedule
Six OPI Renewal Units are available for each day	Updated Policies are sent to schools after Board of Director's approval	Aligned to Montana Content Standards for K–8 and 9–12 in all disciplines

Standards Program

MSSA provides half day trainings to member schools each August so small schools can meet accreditation requirements.

Library	Guidance
<p>If a district has fewer than 126 students, the district may utilize a consortium, multidistrict agreement, or inter-local cooperative to secure these services. <u>10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12</u></p>	<p>Districts with fewer than 126 students may employ or contract with a licensed, endorsed school counselor or Class 6 specialist or utilize a consortium, multidistrict agreement, or inter-local cooperative to secure these services. <u>10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff</u></p>

MSSA STANDARDS PROGRAM CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS 2021 - 2022

LIBRARY SPECIALIST:

**Erin Lipkind
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GUIDANCE SPECIALIST:

**Dan Rask
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(406) 221-6303**

Scholarships and Awards

▶ District and Individual

Application Criteria:

1. MSSA Membership
2. Site Curriculum/Standards
3. Narrative of activity/field trip/training
4. Indicate method of reporting to Boards.

Scholarship – reimbursement up to \$1,500 each.

Applications will be sent out in October and are due mid-January
Project year begins February 1, 2022.

▶ Jules Waber Travel Award

Application Criteria:

1. MSSA Membership
2. Narrative highlighting your interest in becoming more involved in NREA and MSSA .

Award – up to \$2,000 in fees/ travel costs to NREA National Conference on Nov. 11–12, 2021 in Indianapolis.

Application is on the website and due Sept 25.

Winner selected during MSSA Board Meeting Sept 29.

WHERE DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT MSSA PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES?

- This is the official website of the MSSA:
➤ www.mt-ssa.org

Let's take a quick look around the website.

Please feel free to call the office if you have any questions. The “Linda’s” are here to serve you. Also, all County Superintendents are welcome to attend our consortium workshops to earn renewal units for recertification.

Have a wonderful year!