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Office of the Superintendent

Updates in Montana Education

The Office of Public Instruction thanks Montana teachers and school leaders for your service to students during the 2018-2019 school year! We hope that you have an enjoyable summer and we look forward to working with you again in the 2019-2020 school year. OPI staff are here to assist during the summer months as well.

Reminders:



- New K-12 Education-related laws for the 2021 biennium can be found [HERE](#). The OPI will notify districts when new school law books become available for purchase, likely in September. Visit the OPI's [legislative webpage](#) for updates during the interim.
- Check out Superintendent Arntzen's 2019 [graduation message](#).

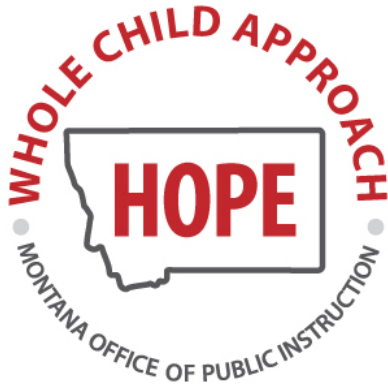
Summer Resources for Students/Families:

- Summer math and reading resources are available for families at [this link](#).
- USDA summer food service program sites and information can be found at [this link](#).
- The OPI has created kindergarten readiness tools for educators and families that are available at [this link](#). Please share with your community!
- Information about summer programs (21st Century Community Learning Centers) in your area can be found at [this link](#).

Superintendent's Office June Events

- Call with the U.S. Department of Education regarding an amendment to Montana's [ESSA State Plan](#)
- Address to the 2019 Montana Boys' State Delegates
- Presentation to visiting international teachers through the Mansfield Center
- SAM Evening of Excellence
- Establishment of Montana Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation
- Luncheon with the Montana Automobile Dealers Association
- [Montana Summer Institute](#) (MBI)
- [Education Interim Committee](#) presentations
- Discussion with the Helena Independent Record Editorial Board
- Meeting of the K-12 Data Task Force
- Participation in [Montana NEW Leadership](#) panel
- Recurring [Land Board](#), [Education Advocates](#), Library Commission, and OPI Leadership meetings.

Follow the Office of Public Instruction on social media:  
For more information, contact [Dylan Klapmeier](#), 406-444-3559.



- **Family, student, and community engagement**
- **Safety, mental health, and suicide prevention**



- **Celebrating teacher excellence and extending leadership opportunities**
- **Teacher retention and recruitment**



- **Closing achievement gaps**
- **Improving math and reading with a focus on middle school**



- **Expanding industry, military, and post-secondary partnerships**
- **STEM, CTE, and workforce development emphasis beginning in middle school**

Assessment

English Learner Proficiency Standards Validation Workshop

The Office of Public Instruction is recruiting panelists to participate in establishing state-specific English language proficiency criteria for the ACCESS for ELLs (or WIDA) assessment administered to English learners in grades K–12. The OPI is seeking participants from a diverse group of Montana stakeholders, including, but not limited to, school administrators, school Title III Coordinators, English Learner Specialists, Mathematics and ELA teachers, and parents.

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating in this work, please have them [use this online form to apply](#) or explore the [application announcement](#) to learn more about the event. If you have questions about this opportunity, contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 844-867-2569 or OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

Teacher Leaders Wanted

Montana adopted new science content standards in 2016. A new statewide assessment of these standards will be field tested in spring 2020 and operational assessment implemented in spring 2021. With these changes, the OPI is reaching out to engage with educators and connect them with opportunities to support the implementation of Montana’s science content standards. The OPI is looking for individuals interested in being science teacher leaders in the following ways: creating or reviewing assessment items, developing professional learning, giving training, creating or facilitating an online course, networking, etc. Interested parties can complete the [interest survey](#). Your responses will help us get in touch and connect you with great professional opportunities over the next couple of years.

Should you have any questions, contact Michelle McCarthy, Science Instructional Coordinator at 406-444-3537 or mmccarthy5@mt.gov or Jennifer Stadum, Indian Education Specialist at 406-444-0725 or jstadum@mt.gov.

Statewide Assessment Score Reports

Test windows have closed for all the required statewide assessments and individual student score reports will be available for districts and schools to send to parents in the fall. If you have any questions about score reports, please contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 844-867-2569 or OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

Content Standards and Instruction

OPI Learning Opportunities Portal

Visit the [Learning Opportunities Portal website](#) to find out about great 2019 summer conferences, classes, workshops, and courses. The Portal is just one of the ways the OPI informs educators about upcoming professional learning opportunities in our state.

Learning Hub

If you haven't already, [check out](#) what more than 11,000 Montana educators have experienced! Our Hub team is always adding and updating our self-paced and facilitated courses. Please check the [Learning Hub homepage](#) for a complete [listing](#) and [catalog](#). Summer is a perfect time to take a self-paced course!

3 Big Ideas – New Format, Same Great Info!

In August, the 3 Big Ideas newsletter will have a new look. If you would like to suggest a topic for the 2019-20 school year, please contact [Marjorie O'Rourke](#), our newsletter editor.

For more information on these topics, contact OPICSI@mt.gov.

Data and Technology

K-12 Data Task Force Meeting and Membership

The last meeting of the [K-12 Data Task Force Meeting](#) was held on June 25th at the OPI offices in Helena. The K-12 Data Task Force provides guidance and advice to the Office of Public Instruction on topics related to statewide K-12 data systems and the use of data. The OPI is also seeking individuals to participate on the task force. The task force is comprised of legislators, school board members, educators, school administrators, school technology staff and parents. There are currently openings for the following:

- School Board Trustee, Class 3 School
- School Administrator, Class 2 School
- Parent, Elementary, Class 3 School
- Parent, High School, Class 2 School
- Parent, High School, Class 3 School

If you know of someone who meets these qualifications and would be interested in serving, please encourage them to [apply to serve](#) on the task force. For more information, contact [Michael Sweeney](#), 406-444-4411 or visit the [K-12 Data Task Force website](#) for more information.

School and District Technology Service Contracts Now Require Student Privacy and Protection Language

[House Bill 745, the “Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act”](#) became law this past legislative session. This law requires technology service operators providing online educational services to K-12 students in Montana to take very specific measures to protect student data and privacy. More importantly, Montana schools and districts that have contracts or legal agreements with such operators will need to have those measures specified and detailed in the contracts or agreements. The OPI and the [Montana Educational Technologist Association \(META\)](#) are working to provide resources and guidance to help schools and districts comply with these new requirements. The OPI recently filed paperwork for Montana to join the [Student Data Privacy Consortium](#) as a statewide alliance. Montana’s alliance membership in the consortium will provide no-cost access to materials and expertise for any Montana school and district wishing to participate.

We are still finalizing Montana’s membership and creating a plan with our META colleagues to manage the alliance and roll it out by the end of the summer. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns or need more information please contact [Michael Sweeney](#), 406-444-4411 or [Brad Somers](#), Technology Services Supervisor at Bozeman Public Schools at 406-522-6033.

Federal Programs

Private School Consultation and Equitable Share Agreement Forms

All districts with private/non-public and home schools that have selected to participate in federal programs (**Titles IA and C, II, III, and IVA and B**) must complete and submit to the OPI, no later than July 31, 2019, the Affirmation of Consultation with Private Schools Form and the Title I Equitable Share Services Agreement. These two documents can be downloaded from the following link: <http://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Academic-Success/Title-Other-Federal-Programs/Private-Schools>.

The forms can be downloaded and filled in electronically. After completing the documents, please submit them by email to Jack O’Connor, Private School Ombudsman at joconnor2@mt.gov. Districts needing more time to complete the forms can request a waiver at the same email address.

2019 Summer E-grants Training

This summer, the OPI will be traveling around the state to host E-grants training. There are various dates and locations that you can choose to attend. This training will be an opportunity for staff members who work in the E-grants system to gain more knowledge and insight into the program and to go over some of the new changes that have occurred in the E-grants system. Please bring your E-grants login information, enrollment and free/reduced lunch count by school, Community Eligibility (CEP) data, homeless student data, and private school enrollment and low-income numbers (if necessary) so that you will be able to fill out your ESEA Consolidated Application for the Title programs in which your district receives federal funding.

Also, this year, School Nutrition Program staff will be providing training from 8:30 to 9:00 on how to navigate the new and improved Direct Certification System (DCA). Districts will learn techniques for maximizing the identified student percentage (ISP), which can impact your eligibility for the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). DCA is used to match students enrolled in public schools in Montana to referrals from low-income programs and other family situations, including SNAP, TANF, Foster Care, Homeless, Runaway, Migrant, and FDPIR. The result of a match is direct certification for free school meals. CEP is a non-pricing meal option that benefits schools and students by improving student access to nutritious meals while reducing administrative requirements to qualify meal applications.

Each training session will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. No registration is necessary.

- **July 9 and August 6 - Helena High School - Computer Black Lab/Library**
1300 Billings Avenue, Helena, MT - Note: park on the northside of the building - cafeteria entrance
 - Program staff available for: Title I, II, III, IV, V, and Neglected or Delinquent
- **July 11 - Belgrade Middle School - Computer Lab**
410 Triple Crown Road, Belgrade, MT
 - Program staff available for: Title I, II, IV, V, and Neglected or Delinquent
- **July 16th - Dawson High School - Computer Lab**
900 N. Merrill Avenue. Glendive, MT
 - Program staff available for: Title I, II, IV, V, and Neglected or Delinquent
- **July 30th - Glacier High School - Computer Lab 2nd Floor**
375 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, MT
 - Program staff available for: Title I, II, IV, V, and Neglected or Delinquent
- **July 31st – Sentinel High School - Computer Lab/Library on 2nd Floor**
901 South Ave West, Missoula, MT
 - Program staff available for: Title I, II, IV, V, and Neglected or Delinquent

For more information, contact [Jack O'Connor](mailto:Jack.O'Connor@opi.mt.gov), 406-444-3083

Health Enhancement and Safety

Tobacco Use Prevention Education

To address the increases of youth vaping in Montana schools, the 2019 Legislature has amended 10-1-220 MCA – Tobacco-Free Schools Law. State law now prohibits the use of all tobacco products, including vapor products and nicotine products in a public school building or on public school property.

Click [here](#) for more information or contact [Kris Minard](#), 406-444-0785.

Summer School Safety Professional Development Opportunities

MONTANA SAFE SCHOOLS SUMMIT IN BUTTE – AUGUST 20-21, 2019

National, regional, and state experts in school safety headline a Montana statewide safe schools summit in Butte on August 20th and 21st, 2019 to discuss and advance best practices for student and educator safety and creating safe school environments. Designed for school safety teams, educators, school nurses, mental health professionals, law enforcement, and emergency and disaster preparedness coordinators, the Jeremy Bullock Safe Schools Summit has a theme of School Safety – Prevention and Preparedness. Information about the Summit, as well as registration details, can be found at: jeremybullocksafeschools.com.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOL-BASED INCIDENTS - MILES CITY - AUGUST 21, 2019

Partnering Rural Law Enforcement, First Responders, and Local School Systems in an 8-hour, Department of Homeland Security-approved course designed to educate rural law enforcement personnel as well as school administrators and staff on the elements that would allow for an effective response to school-based emergencies. This **tuition-free** course is beneficial for rural police and sheriff departments, school administrators, school resource officers, counselors, and others involved in school safety and security. Registration Deadline: August 7, 2019. [AWR 148 Flyer and Registration link](#).

Indian Education

MCA 2-1-315: Tribal Regalia and Objects of Cultural Significance- Allowed at Public Events

The OPI has compiled the [new laws related to K-12 education](#) from the 2019 Legislature for school administrators to reference, but the OPI also wants to remind schools of [MCA 2-1-315](#) passed by the 2017 Legislature which (among other things) prohibits schools from banning tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies and school events.

Educator Licensure

Renewals

There is a grace period through August 31st for those renewing their licenses. All professional development and or college courses applicable to renewal must have been earned during the validity period of the license, i.e. July 1, 2014 through August 31, 2019.

- 60 renewal units earned during the validity period of the license are required
- College courses may be used to meet the 60 renewal units, but are not required
 - 1 quarter credit = 10 renewal units
 - 1 semester credit = 15 renewal units
- There are specific requirements for the first renewal of a Class 4 license per [Administrative Rule 10.57.420\(4\)](#).

There are many free, online resources available at the [OPI Learning Hub](#). Click [here](#) to renew or find additional renewal resources.

Considering Employing a Foreign National?

If you are considering employing a foreign national, here are the steps for your applicant to follow:

- Applicant applies online at: OPI.mt.gov/Educators/Licensure/Become-a-Licensed-Montana-Educator. A Virtual Private Network (VPN) is needed to access the licensure system while overseas.
- Applicant chooses a foreign evaluation credentialing agency and submits their foreign transcripts to them for evaluation. This agency determines the equivalency of their foreign educator preparation program to a US educator preparation program. The agency provides the results of their evaluation in the summary section; this information is what Licensure relies on for determining qualification and endorsement area. Any recognized agency may be used, but here are two options:
 - World Education Services (WES) www.wes.org
 - Educational Credential Evaluators, Inc. www.ece.org
- The applicant must submit the following documents:
 - Completed evaluation of foreign transcripts
 - Notary page
 - Fingerprint background check supplement (fingerprint cards to DOJ per instructions)
 - Required Praxis results
 - Original completion certificate for An Introduction to Indian Education for All in MT
- The applicant will need a TIN or SSN.

Also, a reminder that Licensure forms and additional information may be found by accessing the [Licensure homepage](#). For more information, contact [Kristine Thatcher](#), 406-444-2580.