

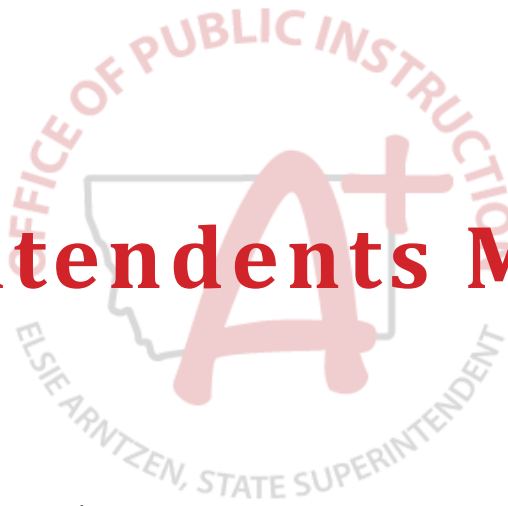


The OPI Monthly Summary

April 2021



Superintendents Message



Hello OPI Staff, I hope you have a great weekend ahead with your family and friends – spring is in the air.

WE APPRECIATE YOU!

Don't Forget! On Wednesday, May 5th, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Superintendent Arntzen is hosting the annual Staff Teacher Appreciation BBQ in the 1227 parking lot.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

This week the Legislative is expected to adjourn sine die – meaning our legislative session is complete! I am pleased to inform you that all of our priority bills for the 67th Legislative Session have crossed the finish line!

This list includes:

- ◇ HB 15 BASE Aid Inflation;
- ◇ HB 46 Addition of SPED to BASE Aid;
- ◇ HB 36 and HB 206 Fund in-state residential treatment for at-risk students;
- ◇ and HB 181 Housing Broadband for Montana Schools Program at OPI.

My thanks to the legislators who worked with me to get this done. We also sent an End-of-Session Wrap-Up to all legislators, and I encourage you to view it as well. You can find it [HERE](#).

FEDERAL UPDATE

Nationally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced waivers to extend a variety of current flexibilities, including the existing “grab and go” option which allows families to pick up meals from the school and take them home. And while the U.S. Department of Education rejected Montana’s request for using local assessments to replace the federally mandated statewide test, the OPI – through the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) accountability system – did secure a separate waiver on the 95 percent testing participation rate.



(Supt. Arntzen with Montana Youth Challenge Academy Cadets and legislators following the bill signing for HB 556 authorizing alternative diplomas)

Superintendents Message

STAFF INFORMATION

◇ **New Hires and Promotions!** Please help us in welcoming **Janey Salomon** and **Jeff Kirksey** to the team. Janey will be the EANS Program Manager and been a teacher and librarian in Ronan over the past two decades. And Jeff is coming home to Montana to serve as the ESSER Program Manager, after stints at postsecondary institutions across the country. Welcome to you both! Also, congratulations to **Barb Quinn**, who is moving from the Budget Analyst role to the School of Financial Lead position – this will help strengthen the relationships between the OPI and our schools. Congrats Barb!

◇ **Kudos to Crystal!** Crystal Andrews is our new Educator Licensure Unit Director at the OPI. Crystal has spent the past four years as the state contact for Title III services and developed a program for Montana's Multilingual and English Learner students. She also was the Title I Targeted Support and Improvement lead and before that a Title I Comprehensive Support and Improvement specialist. Prior to working for the OPI, Crystal taught at the elementary level for 12 years. She completed her undergraduate

and first graduate degree at the University of Pittsburgh and continued her education at Montana State University where she received a graduate degree in Educational Leadership. Crystal is excited to enter the licensure world at such an exciting and important time. Her passion to support educators to ensure that all students receive a quality education will serve her well in this position.

◇ **Thank you, Terri!** We are sad to see Terri Barclay, our Literacy Grants Team Leader and Project Director MCLSP/MCLSDP announce her retirement, but thank her for her career here at OPI. Terri was hired as the Early Childhood Specialist for the Office of Public Instruction in 2010. Her continued work has been focused in supporting districts in implementation of federal literacy grants. Terri will be leaving the OPI later this spring to take a position with the University of Montana-Western where she will be mentoring and supporting pre-service teachers. We wish Terri well in her new role and are glad that she will continue to be a positive and inspirational influence for Montana teachers.



HOPE 5-8

- ◇ 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Completed
- ◇ Lead Testing in Schools
- ◇ Addressing Tobacco Use in Montana Schools with Restorative Practices
- ◇ Support for Applying for School-Based Mental Health Grants
- ◇ Behavioral Certification and Discipline Data Collection
- ◇ Flexibilities for Summer 2021 Operations for the SFSP and NSLP Extensions
- ◇ Hats off to School Lunch Heroes

TEACH 9-10

- ◇ 2021 Virtual IEFA Best Practices Conference
- ◇ New Social Studies Standard and Resources
- ◇ Test Waiver to USED Denied
- ◇ Reporting Medical Exemptions for COVID Reasons
- ◇ New Educator Licensure Director
- ◇ The Montana Virtual Education Summit

LEARN 11-12

- ◇ Opportunity to Learn Survey
- ◇ IEFA Grant Opportunities for 2021-22 School Year
- ◇ Mathematics, ELA, and Science Assessment Windows Open!
- ◇ Upcoming Service Academy Days

READY 13-14

- ◇ OPI Data Systems Modernization Project
- ◇ Transformational Learning and MT Advanced Opportunities Spring Webinar Series
- ◇ 2021-22 Preliminary Allocations
- ◇ Waivers to the ESSA Accountability System

ANNOUNCEMENTS 15-17

- ◇ AIM CTE Collection Change
- ◇ MIC3 Graduation Letter
- ◇ School Elections
- ◇ 67th Legislative Session End-of-Session Wrap-up
- ◇ US Flags in Schools
- ◇ Virtual Teacher Job Fair
- ◇ Influencer in Education Awards
- ◇ Aviation Awareness Art Contest





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

2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Completed

The 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) has been completed and for the first time in 30 years of the survey, 100% of high schools will be represented in the 2021 Montana YRBS results for health risk behaviors of unintentional injury and violence; tobacco use; alcohol and other drug use; sexual behaviors; nutrition and dietary behaviors; and physical inactivity. Your school-specific results will be available in early May at www.opi.mt.gov “View School-Specific Results”. For more information contact Susan Court at scourt@mt.gov or 406-444-3178.

Lead Testing in Schools

As part of the Department of Public Health and Human Service (DPHHS) revision to the School Administrative Rules in January 2020, all accredited schools are required to sample for Lead in their drinking water. Schools have until **December 31, 2021** to conduct initial sampling for lead in their drinking water.

DPHHS is partnering with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide sampling and remediation technical assistance and guidance to

schools. The DEQ has secured funding to cover the cost of the initial laboratory analyses. The grant program is only available to public schools. Funding cannot be used for remediation, but the DEQ and partner organizations are developing resources to help schools identify funding for remediation efforts.

Information on the program requirements can be found on the [DEQ's website](#) dedicated to lead testing in schools. If your school needs assistance or has questions about the program, please contact Greg Montgomery with DEQ at (406) 444-5312 or gregory.montgomery@mt.gov. All sampling results must be made public and remediation must occur if lead concentration is found to be above action levels set in the rules.

The Montana School Boards Association is the final stages of developing example policies to help schools comply with the lead testing and water flushing requirements, as well as the other policy requirements laid out in the administrative rules. These example policies will be shared with school districts in May. Additional guidance on the entire administrative rule package can be found on the [DPHHS School Administrative Rules website](#).

Addressing Tobacco Use in Montana Schools with Restorative Practices

Has your school been impacted by youth vaping? A well measured, recuperative approach to discipline may be the most effective way to help Montana students overcome their urge to vape. The restorative discipline policy language promotes communication, nicotine addiction education, and a connection to resources for quitting will likely go a lot farther to stem the youth vaping epidemic than suspension and expulsion.

Peer to peer engagement opportunities can help prevent youth tobacco use in the first place, as this inspiring president elect of the National Association of Secondary School Principals has discovered. Watch Reversing the Youth E-Cigarette Epidemic: What Principals Need to Know to learn more. (Start at 16:45 for Principal Gregg Wieczorek) For more information about tobacco use prevention resources for your school, contact Kris Minard at kminard@mt.gov or phone 406.444.0785.

Support for Applying for School-Based Mental Health Grants

The Coordinated School Health Unit is committed to working together with statewide partners to support student mental health. Our colleagues at the University of Montana Center for Children, Families, and Workforce Development have developed this list of private School-Based Mental Health Grants that provide funding for school mental health. The Center has also created a Grant Writing Toolkit to help schools in applying for grants.

For questions, contact Carol Ewen at carol.ewen@mso.umt.edu , Director of School Mental Health Programs.

Behavioral Certification and Discipline Data Collection

The Behavior certification window will be open soon and all public schools must enter discipline data into Infinite Campus. Failure to certify the information to the OPI will result in an incomplete report. All schools must certify, if there are no behavior events to report, then certify the data with no events to report. Behavior reporting encompasses any event that takes place from July 1 through June 30 and:

- ◇ Results in an out-of-school suspension or expulsion, regardless of the length of time, for any enrolled student; or
- ◇ Results in an in-school suspension, regardless of the length of time, for an enrolled student with a disability*.

BEHAVIOR COLLECTION RESOURCES: [AIM Links](#)

- ◇ [Behavior-Setting Up User Access for Validating & Certifying District Data](#)
- ◇ [Behavior-Secondary Users: How To Validate and Export District Data](#)
- ◇ [Behavior- Primary Users: How To Certify Data to OPI](#)

For questions, please contact: [Kristie Sears](#) at 444-0685



Flexibilities for Summer 2021 Operations for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Extensions

In response to the needs of program operators and state administrators, FNS has released a series of waivers to maximize flexibility and limit exposure to COVID-19, while maintaining accountability. The waivers are currently scheduled to expire on **June 30, 2021**, the statutory end of the school year. These flexibilities will remain necessary to operate our programs this summer given the ongoing public health and economic crisis. Under-

standing that program operators are now planning how to best deploy child nutrition programs during the upcoming summer months, FNS is issuing the following updated waivers specifically for summer meal program operations in 2021. Please note that the current waivers are in effect through **June 30, 2021** and that the waivers listed below are effective beginning **July 1, 2021**:

- ◇ [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Meal Pattern Flexibilities for Summer 2021 Operations- EXTENSION 9](#)
- ◇ [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Feeding for Summer 2021 Operations - EXTENSION 6](#)
- ◇ [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for Summer 2021 Operations – EXTENSION 6](#)
- ◇ [Nationwide Waiver to Extend Area Eligibility Waivers for Summer 2021 Operations - EXTENSION 4](#)
- ◇ [Nationwide Waiver of Meal Service Time Restrictions for Summer 2021 Operations - EXTENSION 3](#)
- ◇ [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibilities in the Summer Food Service Program for Summer 2021 Operations - EXTENSION 3](#)
- ◇ [Nationwide Waiver to Allow Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites for Summer 2021 Operations - EXTENSION 3](#)
- ◇ [Nationwide Waiver to Waive First Week Site Visits in the Summer Food Service Program for Summer 2021 Operations - EXTENSION 3](#)

If you would like additional information, please reach out to Chris Emerson, School Nutrition Programs Director: cemerson@mt.gov.

Hats off to School Lunch Heroes

The Hats Off to School Lunch Heroes virtual party is coming up soon! You are invited to join us on **May 5** as we celebrate School Lunch Hero Day in Montana. Grab your best hats and join in this statewide (virtual) gathering to honor Montana's School Nutrition Teams! School Lunch Hero Day officially falls on Friday May 7th, 2021, so this celebration is happening a couple days early. The goal of this virtual event is bringing together as many school food service staff and their supporters as possible to celebrate YOU and YOUR efforts as a Montana school nutrition community.

Hats Off to Montana School Lunch Heroes!

WEDNESDAY MAY 5 // 2 to 3 PM

SCHOOL LUNCH HERO DAY CELEBRATION

Wear your best hat and join us for a (virtual) statewide gathering to honor Montana's School Nutrition Teams!



Wednesday, May 5, 2021 from 2pm to 3 pm.

Join with Zoom info below - No registration needed.

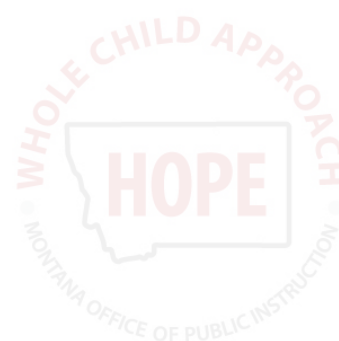
<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/95744687964?pwd=V3NSMTc3MmxQejNSTkw5coVqRnNJQT09> [nam10.safe-links.protection.outlook.com] [nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

Meeting ID: 957 4468 7964

Password: 505569

Dial by Telephone: +1 646 558 8656

The event is hosted by Montana Office of Public Instruction School Nutrition Programs, Montana School Nutrition Association, Montana No Kid Hungry, and Montana Team Nutrition. We hope to see you there!





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

2021 Virtual IEFA Best Practices Conference

The Montana Office of Public Instruction's Indian Education for All (IEFA) Unit is excited to announce the virtual IEFA Best Practices Conference **May 15 and 16**. Each day will offer a keynote address from a high-profile Indigenous leader, followed by a 60 to 70-minute interactive presentation by an IEFA expert(s). The event will be hosted via the Zoom platform and will focus on essential understandings, tribal resiliency, and honoring the accomplishments and perspectives of Montana's first peoples. This event will be provided FREE of charge. Those interested should check the [Upcoming Events/PD](#) page of the Indian Education For All website for registration info.

For more information, please contact Joan Franke at 444-3694 or jfranke@mt.gov

New Social Studies Standards and Resources

The new Social Studies Standards provide educators with an excellent opportunity to integrate Indian Education for All (IEFA) in K-12 Social Studies instruction. The IEFA website contains excerpts of Social Studies Standards that offer relevant connections to contemporary and historic American Indian issues

[Social Studies Standards \(2021\) Indian Education for All Connections](#)

The IEFA unit has also developed a couple of videos made by educators and stakeholders that help explain the new standards and IEFA integration.

[A View from the Classroom](#) – Standards Interview with Jodi Delaney

[Interview with Martha Kohl](#) from the Montana Historical Society

For more information, please contact Mike Jetty at 444-0720 or mjetty@mt.gov

Test Waiver Request to USED Denied

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has proposed the option to US Department of Education (USED) to allow local assessments (e.g., interims) and other measures of student learning and progress to provide information to parents and educators. The OPI reinforced Montana's system of local control in its discussion and made it clear that policies are best left to the local level who know the context and unique needs of their community. On April 6, the OPI [received a letter](#) declining approval of [Montana's Strategic Waivers](#) for testing, accountability and reporting. To provide flexibility to schools and students across Montana, the OPI has extended all [testing windows](#) this spring to the greatest extent practicable using a balance with reporting information to families and educators. Review the OPI [press release](#) which announced USED's denial determination.

Reporting Medical Exemptions for COVID Reasons

The OPI secured the ["Academic Achievement Indicator"](#) flexibility which grants school districts relief from the participation rate calculation on the 95 percent requirement within the State's accountability process. With this calculation waiver, schools must continue to provide the assessment opportunity to all students when it is safe to do so. Reasons for non-participation, related to the pandemic for any state assessment this school year, should be reported to the OPI using the ["Medical Exemption for COVID Reason Policy"](#) (see page 14 of form). The OPI has extended this [reporting window](#) until June 14th to acknowledge the 2-week test window extensions in May.

New Educator Licensure Director



Crystal Andrews is our new Educator Licensure Unit Director at the OPI. Crystal has spent the past four years as the state contact for Title III services and developed a program for Montana's Multilingual and English Learner students. She also was the Title I Targeted Support and Improvement lead and before that a Title I Comprehensive Support and Improvement specialist. Prior to working for the OPI, Crystal taught at the elementary level for 12 years. She completed her undergraduate and first graduate degree at the University of Pittsburgh and continued her education at Montana State University where she received a graduate degree in Educational Leadership. Crystal is excited to enter the licensure world at such an exciting and important time. Her passion to support educators to ensure that all students receive a quality education will serve her well in this position.



The Montana Virtual Education Summit

MTEdx - 2021

Dr. Yong Zhao will keynote the MTED-X virtual conference “Avoiding the Learning Loss Trap” and “The Changes We Need”

The COVID-19 global pandemic has affected students, teachers and communities in unimagined ways. The federal government has poured an unprecedented amount of money into schools. The most recent American Recovery Protection Act (ARP or ESSER III) provided nearly \$122 billion to State Agency and local education agencies to meet urgent needs of schools and students. The federal government released 2/3 of those funds to SEAS. The 1/3 withholding of funds requires a State Plan to be submitted to the US Department of Education for their internal review and approval, by **June 7, 2021**. The State Plan template also requires a high-quality LEA plan for use of the ARP funds to achieve objectives related to students.

Superintendent Arntzen has announced the MTED-X Virtual Conference will have focused sessions on supporting the districts on the development of a high-quality LEA plan that will address the objectives set by the U.S. Department of Education.

The virtual conference is June 24-25.

Work Sessions include:

- Developing the LEA High-Quality ARP Plan
- Meaningful Stakeholder Consultation
- What do the Data Tell
- What is the purpose of K-12 Education?
- Reimagining State Assessments

[REGISTER TODAY](#) with your team and get the key ideas and support to ensure your plan.



- ◇ Closing Achievement gaps
- ◇ Improving math and reading with a focus on middle school

Opportunity to Learn Survey

A Survey that Matters—Open **May 3rd to May 21st, 2021**

The OPI has developed a survey to determine what opportunities our students had to learn during the 2020-2021 school year. This survey will provide information to inform the OPI and school districts about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on learning and determine priorities for future action to address the loss of instructional time.

The purposes of the Opportunities to Learn (OTL) survey are to gain a better understanding of learning experiences, student access to educational resources, and learning conditions during the 2020-2021 school year; and to support more appropriate interpretations of the 2020-2021 assessment data.

There are two surveys; **one for students and one for teachers**. The surveys have been crafted to be used together. Teacher surveys will be anonymous. Each student survey response will be held in confidence. The student survey does ask the student for a last name and birthdate so that we can attempt to connect a student's demographic and program participation information. That effort is necessary in order to learn whether different subgroups of students are more affected than others. We have included a student parent permission form, for your use. We are asking that all students Grades 3-12 have the opportunity to complete the short survey. The results of the data will be used to inform the OPI

about how to maximize the impact of support, resources, and flexibility for the districts to accelerate learning, meet the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of all Montana students. The American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) requires that the OPI submit a State plan to the Department of Education as part of the new accountability system for ESSER funding, established by the new administration. This survey is one tool the OPI has created to inform the required data for the State ARP ESSER plan. It will also assist the districts as they thoughtfully diagnose areas of student need and identify priorities to guide their locally developed, locally responsive ARP ESSER plan and use of ARP ESSER funding. The survey is estimated to take under ten minutes to complete. It will **open May 3 and be available until May 21st**.

The OPI will provide its ARP ESSER plan to the Department by June 7th; district results will be available at that time.

PRINCIPALS INBOX: Emails that contain survey URLs and a parent letter have been emailed to school principals to distribute to students and teachers to complete.

For more information contact Anne Bauer, OPI Data Operations Manager, at abauer@mt.gov or 406-444-0727. A link to the generic NON SCHOOL SPECIFIC survey can be found [HERE](#).

IEFA Grant Opportunities for 2021-22 School Year

The OPI Indian Education For All (IEFA) Unit has opened the RFP portal for 2021-22 IEFA grant proposals in the e-grants system. Districts can apply for funding up to \$12,000 to develop and support activities that strengthen and enhance their IEFA implementation efforts. Proposals must be submitted in the e-grants system by **July 31st, 2021**. However, districts interested in submitting a proposal must contact Zach Hawkins, OPI IEFA Director, to talk through their ideas prior to submitting a proposal. The deadline to contact him and discuss your proposal ideas is **June 30th, 2021**.

For more information, please contact Zach Hawkins by phone 444-0708 or zachariah.hawkins@mt.gov

Mathematics, ELA, and Science Assessment Windows Open!

The OPI leveraged all feasible assessment flexibilities allowed by US Department of Education (USED), including a [shortened version](#) of the Smarter Balanced assessment for Math and English language arts (ELA), [medical exemptions](#) related to the effects of COVID-19, and [extended the test windows](#) for all state assessments. The testing windows for Smarter Balanced, Montana Science Assessment (MSA), and Alternate MSA are open until **May 28, 2021**. The Multi-State Alternate Assessment test window is open through **May 14, 2021** and the final ACT test date is **May 5, 2021** for schools that require an additional test date due to COVID-related reasons.

Upcoming Service Academy Days

Last year during the pandemic, Montanans were unable to attend an in-person Academy Days event. Thankfully, this year the Academy Days will be hosted in-person in **Great Falls on May 22nd**. The event allows for students and their parents to learn about the Service Academy nomination process. Representatives from each of the academies will be present to provide information about the programs and what life is like in the academies. Please help get the word out about the upcoming event and keep your eye out for future event dates and information.

Additional information can be found [HERE](#)





- ◇ Expanding Industry, Military, and Post Secondary Partnerships
- ◇ STEM, STE, and Workforce Development emphasis beginning in middle school

OPI Data Systems Modernization Project

Approximately \$13.5M in federal CARES and ARPA funding is being appropriated to the OPI by the Montana legislature for the purposes of “database modernization”. The appropriations come with the condition that “OPI Database Modernization funds must be used by the office of public instruction to repair, improve, or replace existing data systems to respond to learning loss associated with the pandemic. Actions taken must be consistent with [20-7-104](#).”

OPI will be hosting a **Zoom meeting at 3:30 PM on Friday, May 7th** to give you initial project information, but also hear your feedback. We invite you to join us to share your thoughts on where our data project should focus.

Data Systems Modernization Project Overview Zoom Meeting Information:

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/88194945500?pwd=cW55UnRnTmVxOXgzbm9zMVdNdHZoQTog>

Meeting ID: 881 9494 5500

Password: 625078

Dial by Telephone

+1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999

Meeting ID: 881 9494 5500

Password: 625078

Find your local number: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/kyPy6gJOb>

Transformational Learning and MT Advanced Opportunities Spring Webinar Series

This [LINK](#) takes you to the OPI webpage that provides more information about the spring series. Learn from your colleagues who are transforming and providing opportunities for their students. Brainstorm with others on what may best work for your school district.

Do you have questions? Contact Krystal Smith at krystal.smith@mt.gov

2021-22 Preliminary Allocations

Preliminary Allocations for Title I, II, III, and IV have been posted at the following link: <http://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Academic-Success/Title-Other-Federal-Programs/Federal-Allocation-Bulletin>. The amounts shown are not final, and the dollar amounts can change. Please use these amounts for planning purposes only.

For more information, please contact Sheri Harlow at SHarlow@mt.gov.

The Congressional Art Competition was founded in “1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents by providing an opportunity for students across the country to have their artwork proudly displayed in our Capitol.

The winning student will have their artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol for a year and will receive two round-trip tickets to Washington, DC to attend a national reception scheduled for later this year. Due to changing COVID-19 restrictions, a date for the reception has not been set yet.”

Submissions are due by Friday, April 30, 2021 at the Great Falls district office.

Additional information about the competition can be found [HERE](#) or call (406)770-6260.

To register visit [HERE](#)

Waivers to the ESSA Accountability System

Montana applied and was granted accountability and school identification waivers on March 26, 2021, which are important as they provide relief from the impact of COVID-19 on the accountability system for the 2020-2021 school year. In particular, they waive the requirements to:

1. Measure progress toward long-term goals and measurement of interim progress;
2. Meaningfully differentiate, on an annual basis, all public schools, including by adjusting the Academic Achievement indicator based on a participation rate below 95 percent;
3. Identify schools for comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement based on data from the 2020- 2021 school year; and
4. Report provisions related to accountability based on data from the 2020-2021 school year.

The OPI will identify comprehensive, targeted, and additional targeted support and improvement schools using data from the 2021-2022 school year in the Fall of 2022/Spring of 2023 to ensure school identification resumes as quickly as possible.

For more information, contact julie.murgel@mt.gov, 406-444-3174



Announcements

AIM CTE Collection Change

There have been several significant changes to the CTE Collection that historically would take place in March. Please note that the Spring CTE Collection is no longer taking place in March. It is now called the End of Year (EOY) CTE Collection and it will be opening in May.

We will send out new AIM resources pertaining to the new EOY CTE Collection including a new AIM User Guide and webinar information closer to the collection date. AIM will be hosting Webinars May 5 and 6, 2021. Subscribe to AIM Updates [HERE](#)

Influencer in Education Awards



Representative Windy Boy along with nine other Legislators were awarded with Influencer in Education Awards on April 27th, 2021.

Find the article [HERE](#) with more information about the awards that were given out.

MIC3 Graduation Letter

Superintendent Arntzen and Commissioner Stearns have prepared a graduation letter for the graduates of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission.

The printable version of the MIC3 graduation letter can be found [HERE](#).



School Elections

School elections will be held May 4th!

Information about the elections can be found in the [HANDBOOK](#).

Additional information about the election can be found [HERE](#).

The calendar for elections can be found [HERE](#).

67th Legislative Session End-of-Session Wrap-up

The end of the 67th Legislative Session has arrived! The OPI has accomplished a lot during this year's legislative session and would like to share the progress and changes that have occurred with everyone.

The full printable version of the End-of Session Wrap-up is available [HERE](#).



Announcements

US Flags in Schools

On April 16th, 2021 Superintendent Arntzen visited the Montana School of the Deaf and Blind in Great Falls, MT where she gave 20 US Flags to be distributed throughout the classrooms.


Watch a touching video of the students performing a sneak peek of the school's spring program [HERE](#).

Virtual Teacher Job Fair

The OPI hosted a Virtual Job Fair to help spread the word of the need for teachers Montana's rural schools have. The event was quite the success.

Find the article [HERE](#) with more information about the event.

Aviation Awareness Art Contest



Calling All Youth Artists!

2021 Montana AVIATION AWARENESS Art Contest

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) Aviation Awareness Art Contest is designed to broaden awareness of the importance of aviation and aerospace to the economy and to promote careers in these industries. The contest is open to all students in grades K-12 in public, private, and home schools.

Categories	Prizes	Entry Requirements
Category 1: Kindergarten - 5th grade	FIRST PLACE in each category: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A round trip flight to Helena for the winner and his/her parents (legal guardians) for the awards ceremony in Helena. Date to be decided.2. All three first place winners will be presented with a trophy, certificate, and their framed artwork during the awards ceremony by a state official.3. Following the ceremony, the winners and their families will tour the Helena airport and enjoy lunch. SECOND & THIRD PLACE in each category: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contest deadline is: Friday, May 7, 2021.2. Contest is open to all Montana students, grades K-12.3. Size of poster is not to exceed 11" x 14".4. Artwork must have an aviation theme - can be color or black & white.5. Please no tracing the images.6. All artwork must include the following: Name of Student, Student's Grade, School's Mailing Address, Phone Number, and Teacher's Name7. Previous year's first place winners are welcome to participate but are not eligible for first place prize.
Category 2: 6th Grade - 8th Grade		
Category 3: 9th Grade - 12th Grade		

Get More Info

Artwork will be returned only to first place winners unless return is specifically requested. Winners will be contacted after the contest deadline. Arrangements will be made at that time for air travel to Helena.

All prizes and awards are subject to change, modification, or cancellation under latest COVID-19 guidance.


Mail Artwork To:
MDT Aeronautics Division
P.O. Box 200507
Helena, MT 59620-0507

Visit Our Website:
mdt.mt.gov/aviation/

Or Contact:
Matt Lindberg
mdtaerosafetyed@mt.gov
406-444-2506

This document printed at state expense. Information on the cost of publication may be obtained by contacting the Department of Administration.

Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided on request. Contact the Office of Civil Rights, Montana Department of Transportation, 2701 Prospect Avenue, PO Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620. Telephone (406) 444 - 9229. TTY may call 1 (800) 335 - 7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.



MAY						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3 Opportunity to Learn Survey Begins	4 School Elections Day	5 AIM CTE Collection Webinar Day 1 Virtual Hats off to School Lunch Heroes	6 AIM CTE Collection Webinar Day 2	7 Aviation Awareness Art Contest Deadline OPI Data Sys- tems Modern- ization Project Meeting	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 IEFA Best Practices Conference Day 1
16 IEFA Best Practices Conference Day 2	17 Transfor- mational Learning Webinar 9 am	18	19	20	21 Opportuni- ty to Learn Survey Closes	22 Academy Days in Great Falls
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 MTEdx Virtual Education Summit Day 1	25 MTEdx Virtual Education Summit Day 2	26	27
28	29	30 SFSP and NSLP waivers expires				

JULY						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1 Current SFSP and NSLP Waivers begin	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 IEFA eGrant Submission Deadline			

Additional Dates:

- ◇ December 31, 2021: Lead Testing in Schools Completion Deadline