



JUNE 2021 MASS MEETING UPDATES FROM THE OPI

Below are key talking points from the OPI Executive Staff to be shared with the MASS Regions as of 6.1.2021

ESSER-ARP Requirements and the US Department of Education FAQ Guidance

The OPI FAQ guidance is posting on the OPI website on Thursday afternoon to assist districts with their planning for use of these funds. A section related to construction and renovation is included.

Jeff Kirksey is available to join MASS Region meetings to visit about questions he is fielding and key elements in responses.

CSCT Programs

The OPI has been assigned responsibility by the legislature for all Medicaid related services and reimbursements in school districts. The OPI and DPHHS are collaborating on these efforts. The 80+ districts that are using CSCT are invited to a special webinar being held Monday, June 14, 2021 at 11:00 a.m., where the legislative changes, the impact of elimination of in-kind matches, and options. The webinar will be a joint OPI-DPHHS session.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/87941656603?pwd=MXJzcEVObE9aRTQ5SUIVb2pvYXE1UT09>

Meeting ID: 879 4165 6603

Password: 015199

Chapter 57 & Chapter 58 Task Force

Nearly 80 folks responded with interest of participating on Task Forces for Review of Educator Licensing and Educator Prep. The first meetings of the Task Forces will be June 10th. If you meant to express interest, we encourage you to do so no later than June 7th. The process being used, provides various methods of input throughout the process.

VIRTUAL CONFERENCES

June 24-25 will be the Montana Education Summit with a focused emphasis on the ESSER-ARP plans, funding and opportunities for innovation. The sessions coupled with plan work and support sessions is certain to benefit each Montana school system. Districts are encouraged to register teams for the conference.



Teacher Recruitment

The OPI promised to offer a second virtual Montana districts only educator employment fair. This job fair will run tandem with the Education Summit. The cost for a district to have a booth is \$50.00. Districts that participated in the April fair can schedule time with Missy Emler to update their booths. New districts will be provided technical assistance as they get registered. The Deadline to register is June 16, 2021.

The OPI has approved a 3rd party vendor, **Teachers Council**, a US Department of State designated sponsor of the J-1 visa for teachers, with a letter of no objection so they can begin sponsoring J-1 teachers in Montana public schools. All their teachers are prescreened for J-1 eligibility, possess English language proficiency, and have the equivalent of a US bachelor's degree in education, or the academic subject they intend to teach, plus a minimum of two years of full-time teaching experience. They work with schools to confirm the recruited teachers meet all licensure requirements and assist them in obtaining state certification. You can contact Chrissie Friedrichsen, chrissie@teacherscouncil.com, for more information. Perhaps your story is similar to the district superintendent who brought Teachers Council to our attention:

“I am working to fill three elementary teaching positions in our colonies. To this point, I have had zero interest from teachers within the United States. Looking at the number of similar open positions in area schools, these positions are going to be very difficult to fill in the traditional way. On the up-side, I have received interest from Filipino applicants through your job fair...Thanks for your help as we work together to address rural school issues.”

Congratulations on your Success in completing the most arduous, shifting school year in the past 100-years.

What is asked of each of you each day in serving the hopes and dreams of each child, in your district's classrooms, places you in a realm of leadership, as described by John C. Maxwell as the Law of Addition. It is something each of you have done since you walked into your first classroom.

“Serving others who follow you really purifies your motives and helps you gain perspective. Anytime you can remove wrong agendas from a leadership relationship, you clear the way for fantastic achievement. Each of you has added value by serving others, with courage, humility and genuine care for the most precious resource of any nation, our children.” Thank you.