



The OPI Monthly Summary

March 2021



Welcome to the Montana Youth Challenge Class #44 cadets as we celebrate HB 556 - Provide alternative means of earning high school diploma

Superintendent's Message

We are two months away from graduation, and the legislation is beginning to complete their work.

HB 630 Appropriate CARES II funds, supplemental, and temporarily revise ed funding – in Senate Finance and Claims
\$170M ESSER II - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

HB 632 Implement receipt of and appropriate federal stimulus and COVID recovery funds – in House Appropriations
\$382M ESSER III - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund

- HB 15 BASE Aid Inflation (Rep. Anderson) establishes inflationary adjustments to school funding. The bill passed the Senate and was signed by the Governor on February 25th.
- HB 46 Addition of SPED to BASE Aid (Rep. Bedey) revises special education funding laws by including the special education allowable cost in the BASE Aid calculations, which fund Montana's schools.
- HB 25 and HB 206 Fund in-state residential treatment for at-risk students (Rep. Funk); Rep. Bedey, respectively): HB 25 revises school funding laws for children in psychiatric hospitals and residential treatment facilities; HB 206 specifies the mechanism for tuition funding for in-state treatment.
- HB 181 Housing Broadband for Montana Schools Program at OPI (Rep. Zolnikov) redirects and appropriates technology funding to E-Rate broadband matching funds, which will be administered by OPI.

The OPI Monthly Summary

HOPE 4-7

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- Tribal Relations and Resiliency
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- Tobacco Use: Alternative to Suspension
- School Based Health Initiative
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- Federal Programs
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- Aviation Awareness Art Contest



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. Understanding 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.

Tribal Relations and Resiliency

With our new Unit coming up on our one-year anniversary, we have found our footing and are moving forward to further solidify the foundation of Tribal Relations and consultation. Our entire team is strong, intelligent and experienced in working with and for our Tribal communities, our school districts and our American Indian students. We strive to tackle misconceptions, teach acceptance and make sure the Tribal Voice is in the discussion with educational topics pertaining to their children at every level.

For the Spring, we are planning a Virtual Youth Conference the last week of April. Students are designing this, with guidance from our unit on educational possibilities, in this world in which they live. We are also working to establish an Elder Committee, to provide guidance as we move forward together.

Our team is working with different OPI units and departments with direct connections to our school districts and tribal communities. Currently, we are planning with the federal programs unit to provide educational support and direct connections to tribal resources and leaders. Bridges are being built, translations are being made and, in the end, relationships are improving as we realize we are all human and connected in more ways than not.

For more information, contact Donnie Wetzel, Jr. at dwetzel2@mt.gov, 406-465-5307.

Title IV-A Student Support & Academic Enrichment Waiver Received

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has received a waiver from the United States Department of Education for Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) that will allow the OPI to grant waivers to schools for the 2020-21 school year with respect to LEA needs assessments, with respect to content-area spending requirements, and with respect to the fifteen percent spending limitation for technology infrastructure. Montana schools and communities are facing unprecedented obstacles. Providing additional flexibilities in the use of Title IV, Part A funds will advance student academic achievement by helping Montana schools address their most critical needs. This waiver requires that schools continue to use funds in accordance with all other provisions of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA, and all applicable regulations, program plans, and applications. To utilize the waiver, schools will need to submit an amendment to their ESEA Consolidated Application. To learn more please visit the [Title IV-A SSAE website](#).

For more information contact Tammy Lysons at tamara.lysons@mt.gov.

Addressing and Preventing Adult Sexual Misconduct: Downloadable Training Module

Adult sexual misconduct is defined as any sexual activity directed to a child with the objective of developing a romantic or sexual relationship (U.S. GAO, 2014). The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools and the REMS Technical Assistance Center recently released a free, downloadable training module for schools that focuses on addressing and preventing adult sexual misconduct in schools. This 90-minute training will help schools and school districts keep students safe by developing a better understanding of adult sexual misconduct in schools and how to implement policies and procedures to prevent and address these behaviors. A positive school climate is one where all students and staff feel safe and valued. The Addressing and Preventing Adult Sexual Misconduct (ASM) module, along with other school safety modules, [can be downloaded here](#). For more information on school safety topics, contact Michele Henson (michele.henson@mt.gov) or access the OPI's [Emergency Planning and Safety website](#).

Tobacco Use: Alternative to Suspension – Funding Available

Most educators will agree that suspending a student for vaping at school doesn't do much to address the problem; it's likely most Montana schools don't recommend such a disciplinary procedure for student tobacco use. There are several helpful educational programs available to schools to use as an alternative to suspension including [INDEPTH](#) from the American Lung Association. School administrators may not realize they can apply for [HB 601 \(school safety\)](#) funding to pay for staff to take the INDEPTH facilitator training.

The ALA offers a [free four-hour INDEPTH training](#) that is online and self-paced. HB 601 funding must be used by the end of June 2021 and cannot be used to pay for student instruction. However, as professional development funding, it can be used to pay for any out of school time spent to train facilitators. HB 601 funding provides a great opportunity for Montana schools to train staff to provide an effective education program designed to prevent and reduce student vaping.

Don't forget to check out these [youth tobacco use prevention resources](#) as you navigate this complex school year.

If you'd like more information about youth tobacco use prevention resources, please contact Kris Minard at kminard@mt.gov.

School-Based Health Initiative

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is supporting the implementation of the School-Based Health Initiative, recently launched by the Montana Health Care Foundation. The initiative aims to improve students' health and academic outcomes by implementing school-based health centers in communities that need them most. The initiative provides funding for health care providers to partner with schools to implement or expand school-based health centers.

The upcoming grant cycle opens in June, with applications due in September and projects beginning in November. To learn more about whether your school is eligible to participate in the School-Based Health Initiative or whether there is an eligible health partner in your area, please reach out to OPI's School-Based Health Center Program Manager Jamey Peterse at jamey.petersen@mt.gov.

Special Open Enrollment Period - Family Student Health Insurance

Many Montana students and their families need health insurance coverage. You can support families in seeking coverage by sharing this opportunity with your school families, in need. The Open Enrollment Period has been extended until May 15, 2021.

Most Montanans who enroll in coverage qualify for financial help to make their monthly premium more affordable. Families and caregivers can [learn more or enroll](#), but they don't have to go it alone. There are [local enrollment assisters](#) across Montana who can help walk them through the application and enrollment process. Assisters are trained, free, and confidential.

Federal Programs

Montana schools continue to lead the way in serving both rural and American Indian students experiencing homelessness

The National Center for Homeless Education's newly published brief, *["Incorporating Education into Coordinated Community Responses to Youth and Young Adult Homelessness: Lessons from the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program"](#)* highlights the work of school districts in Browning, Hays-Lodgepole, and Kalispell in providing innovative programs and services to support students and out-of-school youth experiencing homelessness.

To learn more about the work happening in each of these districts contact:

Browning Public Schools - Irene Augere, irenea@bps.k12.mt.us

Hays-Lodgepole Public Schools - Farrell Shortman, fshortman@hlp schools.k12.mt.us

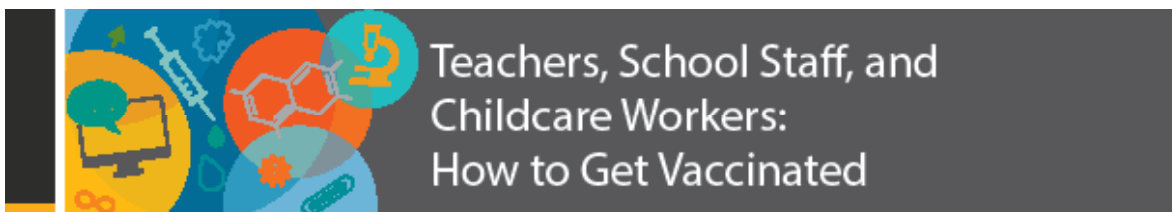
Kalispell Public Schools - Casey Driscoll, caseyd.heart@gmail.com

For additional questions about Montana's YHDP programs in schools contact Heather Denny at hdenny@mt.gov, or 406-444-2036.

2021-22 School Year Applications Open April 1 through June 30

Beginning April 1, please go to the 2021-22 school year in [MAPS](#) to make your updates and submit to OPI School Nutrition Programs. Schools electing to participate in the Community Eligibility Provision must complete the application process by June 30. Look for the instructions for completing the application, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program application (for the schools that are invited to participate only), and Financial Report (for private non-profit sponsors only) in Download Forms in [MAPS](#).

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



On March 2nd, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a directive that all states immediately make eligible teachers, school staff, and childcare workers for COVID-19 vaccination across all vaccination providers.

Additionally, pharmacy locations that are part of CDC's Federal Retail Pharmacy Program are now giving priority to school staff and childcare workers for COVID-19 vaccination during the month of March.



In addition to existing state and local COVID-19 vaccination sites, teachers and staff in pre-Kindergarten to grade 12 (pre-K–12 schools) and childcare workers will be able to sign up for an appointment at more than 9,000 participating pharmacy locations nationwide.

How do I schedule a vaccine appointment?

Teachers, school staff, and childcare workers who are interested in getting vaccinated should:

- Visit [VaccineFinder.org](https://www.vaccinefinder.org) to find out where vaccine is available in your community.
- Visit the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program](#) website to see which pharmacies are participating in your state. Most pharmacy partners are using online scheduling systems to schedule vaccination appointments for those eligible based on their limited vaccine supply. Check your local pharmacy's website to sign up.
- Contact your [state health department's website](#) to find additional providers in your area.



Visit [CDC's Schools and Child Care Programs page](#) for more information on school reopening and strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



CS00040-A 03/08/21

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines



Targeted Support and Improvement

If you received the TSI competitive grant this year, a reminder that your funding needs to be spent by September 30, 2021.

For more information, contact Crystal Andrews crystal.andrews@mt.gov, 406-444-6325

Indian Education for All

2021 Virtual IEFA Best Practices Conference

The Montana Office of Public Instruction's Indian Education for All Unit is excited to announce our 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) and selected from a short list of offerings. The event will most likely be offered through Zoom, but other platforms will be considered for logistical and interactive enhancement. Some presentations will be offered on both days to increase availability of opportunity. The conference will focus on the Essential Understandings, tribal resiliency, and honoring the accomplishments and perspectives of Montana's first peoples. This event will be provided **FREE** of charge. Further details and registration info. will be provided soon. Those interested should check the [Upcoming Events/PD](#) page of our website for registration info.

IEFA Lessons Updated to New Social Studies Standards

The OPI Indian Education Unit is currently revamping its Social Studies lessons to fit the new standards approved by the BPE in November of 2020. Social Studies teachers looking for IEFA lessons that are aligned with the new standards can visit the [Classroom Resources](#) page of the IEFA website. Social Studies lessons that are aligned with the new standards will have an asterisk by the title.

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



Assessment

Montana is providing the option of state assessments this spring and is seeking maximum flexibilities within the law.

The number one priority of the OPI and OCHE is the safety, health, and well-being of school staff and students. When it is safe to administer assessments, the following sections are tailored to some spring reminders to support you with these activities.

Montana Strategic Waiver Updates

On February 5, 2021, the OPI submitted its [waiver application](#) request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department). On February 22, 2021, the Department sent to a [memo](#) to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on guidance for the assessment, accountability, and reporting requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), reauthorized as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This memo outlined the expectations for (1) Accountability and School Identification, (2) Transparency and Reporting, (3) Assessments, and (4) Public Comment. The OPI is in process to secure the “Academic Achievement” indicator waiver to grant school districts relief from participation rates below 95 percent.

Date	Activity
	The Department held a meeting with the OPI to learn more about Montana’s February 5 th waiver application and Montana’s unique conditions and circumstances for schooling. The OPI shared the impetus for the waivers and concerns about statewide assessments in the spring.
	The OPI released a press release to schools to share these updates and explain the proposed spring options for schools. The OPI reinforced Montana’s system of local control in its discussion with Department and that decisions are best left to the local level.
	The “optional template” for states was released by the Department.
	The Department held a meeting with the OPI to clarify the “optional template” given Montana’s unique position with the waivers as a result of its 40-day public comment activities to support the February 5 th waivers. The OPI reiterated its local control proposal to the Department to consider the option of assessment (state summative or local interims) and grant maximum flexibility to schools to determine what tools are most appropriate for their students this spring. There will be a press release when OPI gets a determination from the Department (approval or denial) but until then school districts should plan for testing within the OPI Published Test Windows , where possible.

OPI Extended Test Windows

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.

- **Spring 2021 Assessment are Live!** Plan on delivering tests this spring. The participation requirement to administer state assessments is required under [federal](#) and [state law](#).
- Smarter Balanced, Montana Science Assessment (MSA), and Alternate Montana Science Assessment (AMSA) have had the test windows extended until May 28, 2021.
- No remote proctoring (at-home testing) service for remote learners. School districts wishing to afford the opportunity for remote-only learners to participate in state assessments this spring can use the

OPI's [Sample Family Letter](#). Other sample parent letters for state assessments can be found on the [OPI's Statewide Testing Parent Corner Page](#).

- [Testing Parent Corner Page](#).

Shortened Smarter Balanced Assessment

If the Department does not grant the testing waivers, Superintendent Arntzen has implemented a considerably shortened assessment. This will reduce testing time to support schools and preserve instructional time. The blueprint removes the ELA Performance Task (PT) and replaces it with brief writes in the Computer Adaptive Test (CAT). The shortened test will be shortened by an average of 3–4 hours. To learn more about this test modifications, view the session titled "[Five Things You Must Know About Smarter Balanced This Year](#)".

Approved Field Test Waiver for Science

[The Department extended the OPI's science field test](#) from last spring to this spring 2021. This field test waiver decouples the accountability and reporting requirements from the census administration. The waivers will benefit Montana's students and educators in many ways including providing the opportunity to:

- Transition fully to the new science standards.
- Transition to new tested grades and to engage with new item types.
- Experience the new online science testing format used by the AMSA and MSA.

For more information, contact the Assessment Unit at OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov or 844-867-2569

ACT COVID Emergency Test Date Available

The OPI has partnered with Office of Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) to secure flexibility for the ACT spring administration due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ACT will allow a COVID-Emergency test date in early May for schools who may need this opportunity for reasons related to the pandemic. The test dates for this spring are flexible and allow schools to use paper/pencil mode, online mode, or a combination of the two modes. Additionally, schools can use [all three published test dates](#) as needed to ensure all students are given the opportunity. The early May additional test date will be offered only in paper/pencil mode. The test date is only appropriate in emergency situations where it was impossible to administer the ACT with one of the prior [published test dates](#). The number one priority of the OPI and OCHE is the safety, health, and well-being of school staff and students. When it is safe to administer assessments, the following sections are tailored to some spring reminders to support you with these activities.

Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA): Extended Window

In accordance with the [OPI's Published Test Windows](#), the alternate assessment for student with significant cognitive disabilities in math and English language arts (ELA) in grades 3–8 and 11 has been extended two weeks until May 14, 2021. This test window extension is intended to provide Test Administrators and students with sufficient time to plan and conduct a safe test administration using the [COVID-19 State Standardized Testing Guidance](#). The window opened March 15, 2021.

Smarter Balanced, Montana Science Assessment (MSA), and Alternate Montana Science Assessment (AMSA) have had the test windows extended until May 28, 2021.

For more information, contact the Assessment Unit at OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov or 844-867-2569

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For more information, contact the Assessment Unit at OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov or 844-867-2569

Comprehensive Support and Improvement

The Title I School Support Unit is supporting our schools with an article from TNTP Reimagine Teaching : Learning Acceleration Guide; Accelerating Learning in the 2020-2021 School Year

<https://tntp.org/covid-19-school-response-toolkit/view/learning-acceleration-guide>

Two key questions addressed are:

1. What are your goals for accelerating student learning for all students?
2. How do you ensure that your students' experiences in school will lead to accelerated learning for all?

For more information, contact Carrie.Kouba@mt.gov, 406-444-0864

Title III: Multilingual/English Learner Support Educational Surrogate Parent Brochure

The ML/EL team at the OPI has been busy updating the [webpage](#) with new resources, webinars, guidance, etc. There are now [training modules](#) to clarify federal guidelines for serving ELs with attached tools to help guide discussion at the district level.

Another new and exciting feature on the ML/EL webpage is our [Educator Spotlight](#). Each month we will be showcasing the great work happening around the state to support ML/EL students so others can replicate the efforts. This month's focus is on creating an EL committee at your school.

For more information, contact Crystal Andrews crystal.andrews@mt.gov, 406-444-6325

Educational Surrogate Parent Brochure

Parent participation on behalf of a student receiving special education services is required by federal and state laws. The appointment of an educational surrogate parent was established to ensure students with special education needs who do not have a parent, as that term is defined by the IDEA and Montana statute, have the same protections as other students eligible for special education services.

The Educational Surrogate Parent Brochure was developed by the Early Assistance Program and Dispute Resolution Office at the OPI. The brochure is intended to help persons nominated as surrogate parents in understanding what the process of becoming a surrogate parent is as well as their duties toward the student. The brochure also serves as a resource for others in the special education community as to the requirements around surrogate parents set out in federal and state law. The brochure can be found here: [Educational Surrogate Parent](#).

The Montana Education Summit MTEdX-21

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen will host the Montana Education Virtual Summit on June 24-25, 2021. This event will provide workshops related to implementation of federal ESSER dollars, Reimagining Assessment, Federal Accountability, Licensing, Special Education, Legislative Changes, and more.

This interactive event with presenters and facilitators will set the stage for the best year yet!

Registration information will be available beginning April 10th on the Home Page of the OPI website. www.opi.gov

Teacher-Leader Academy

For Teachers Only

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen is pleased to announce that applications for the first cohort of the Teacher-Leader Academy will be open from April 20 - May 31st.

The first cohort will begin September 2021 and complete their work June 2022.

The application link will be available on the OPI website homepage. www.opi.gov

LEADERSHIP Academy

For Principals, Superintendents, District Leaders, Trustees, Community Leaders

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen is pleased to announce that applications for the first cohort of the Leadership Academy will be open from April 20 - May 31st.

The first cohort will begin September 2021 and complete their work June 2022.

The application link will be available on the OPI website homepage. www.opi.gov

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS

Superintendent Arntzen is hosting, a virtual education fair for Montana School Districts only on Saturday, April 17, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and is bringing candidates to the fair who want to teach in Montana. If you are having trouble recruiting teachers, register for the Virtual Education Fair today.

Technical Assistance Days were offered March 23 and March 25th. An additional day is scheduled on APRIL 7, 2021 at 10:30 .m. The technical assistance day is focused on helping districts get their booths set-up and best practices for virtual employment fairs. The time spent on the assistance webinar increases your positive presence setting your district for maximum success.

EDUCATION FAIR SCHEDULE

April 15 -

Districts Booths are open for candidates to browse and send private message of interest

April 16 -

Districts Booths are open for candidates to browse and send private message of interest

April 17

9:00 a.m. - Welcome

9:15 a.m. - Networking
Candidates & Districts

9:45 a.m. - Connect, Chat and
Interview

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

\$40.00 FEE + \$10 PER ADDITIONAL PERSON



The poster features the Montana Office of Public Instruction logo at the top right. The main title 'VIRTUAL EDUCATION FAIR' is in large, bold, red letters. Below it, it says 'Hosted by the Office of Public Instruction'. A red banner contains the text 'MONTANA SCHOOL DISTRICTS ONLY' and 'Registration closes on April 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. MST. REGISTER TODAY HERE' with a URL. A section titled '3 DAYS OF OPPORTUNITIES' shows three calendar-style boxes: 'Browse Booths Thursday April 15, 2021 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.', 'Browse Booths Friday April 16, 2021 2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.', and 'Live Fair Saturday, April 17th, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.'. A red banner at the bottom says 'TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE APRIL 7, 2021 10:30 A.M.' and 'Once registered, the technical assistance link will be emailed to you.' At the very bottom, there is a yellow question mark icon and the text 'Call or email Qwinn' with the email 'qwinn.weisner@mt.gov' and phone number '406 444 3643'.



Private School Participation in Federal Programs Trainings

The OPI will be hosting a series of trainings for private school participation in federal programs. The training dates will be April 13, 2021, April 15, 2021, and April 27, 2021. All sessions will start at 9:00 AM and run until 10:30 AM. Information on registration will be sent out in the near future.

For more information, contact Sheri Harlow, at sharlow@mt.gov, or 406-

Updates and Reminders

Steps for Applying for an SRSA Grant:

1. Obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, if your LEA does not already have one. An LEA can obtain a DUNS number for free through the [Dun & Bradstreet Website](#). After submitting a request, you should receive a DUNS number within 1-2 business days.
2. If your LEA has a DUNS number, verify that the DUNS number registration is active in the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#).
 - An LEA must be registered in SAM and have a DUNS number that is active in SAM in order to access SRSA funds.
 - Registering your DUNS number with SAM is **FREE** of cost. You do not need to pay a third-party vendor to register your DUNS number with SAM.
 - For additional information, log into your account on www.sam.gov or call 1-866-606-8220 to reactivate your LEA's DUNS number registration annually.
 - You can also use the [FSD.gov Live Chat](#) to connect with a SAM agent directly.
 - To receive a status update on your SAM registration enter your LEA's DUNS number into the [SAM Status Tracker](#).
3. Complete the SRSA application during the application period. See the Notice of Application Deadline published in the [Federal Register](#) for official notice of the SRSA application timeframe, as well as the required procedures for submitting an SRSA application.

All FY 2021 SRSA eligible LEAs with a positive estimated allocation should have received an email with a uniquely identifiable application link in February of 2021. The email includes customized instructions for completing the electronic application via the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Max Survey platform. You may review your LEA's SRSA eligibility, estimated SRSA allocation, and the name of the individual who received the invitation email by viewing the FY 2021 Master Eligibility Spreadsheet on the [SRSA Eligibility page](#).

An eligible LEA must submit an electronic application via OMB Max Survey by April 16, 2021 to be considered for an FY 2021 SRSA grant award.

If you have any questions about the application, please contact the Department at reap@ed.gov.

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

Other Updates

Important News about Transcripts

OPI is discontinuing the contractual relationship it's had with high school transcript provider Parchment. This relationship enabled schools to obtain high school transcripts at no cost to students. The program was voluntary and participating schools were required to use the OPI's proprietary Data Transport System and send transcript information through the OPI. The service was funded through a grant received by the US Department of Education and was intended to help the OPI obtain transcript data for research. The system has been used successfully by approximately 29 schools, however the program never scaled out to be economically viable and the effort to support and maintain the proprietary system outweighed the benefit of the data being collected. Since late February, OPI has been working with participating schools to transition to providing their students' transcripts in a manner that works best for them.

If you have any questions or concerns about the transition, please contact Michael Sweeney at 444-4411 or msweeney@mt.gov.

AIM Webinars

Test Window Enrollment & Program Participation:

The Test Window Collection is used to collect aggregate hours of instruction for all students enrolled on the Test Window Count Date, April 8th, 2021. It is also used to enter/update Program Participation information. This collection opens 4/9/2021 and closes 5/4/2021. Please see our [AIM Test Window Enrollment Count User Guide](#) and our [AIM Program Participation User Guide](#) for more information.



Become a Librarian!
100% Online

Library Media Certificate Program

Scholarships Now Available for Montana and Alaska Teachers

Indigenous Perspectives in School Librarianship

Apply [here](https://www.montana.edu/education/grad/librarymedia/): <https://www.montana.edu/education/grad/librarymedia/>

"Librarians store energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life."

*Sidney Sheldon
Writer and Producer
(1917-2007)*

Application Deadline:

Fall 2021 - April 1st

Contact Us:

librarymedia@montana.edu
(406) 219-1046

Social Media:

 [@msulibrarymedia](https://twitter.com/msulibrarymedia)

 [@msulibrarymediacertificate](https://www.facebook.com/msulibrarymediacertificate)

The Indigenous Perspectives in School Librarianship Project seeks to provide a curriculum and approach to school librarian preparation that provides space for learners to challenge their existing assumptions and explore new ideas, so they are prepared to meet national school library standards and effectively serve indigenous students in their communities.

Need for Librarians is expected to grow 5% faster than the average for all occupations (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021)

IPSL Project Highlights:

- Scholarship for students accepted into the Library Media Certificate Program (LMC) – 30 Students (15 Montana and 15 Alaska): Tuition, Online-Educational Fees, Books, and Professional Development.
- Students have the option (at cost) to take an additional 3 classes (9-credits) and complete an M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction.
- Redesigned Curriculum – Infusion of Indigenous perspectives in support of the Montana Indian Education for All and Alaska's Standards for Culturally Responsive Schools, as well as continuing to meet Montana, Alaska and national Library Media Specialist Preparation Standards.

Program Distinctions:

- Fully online three-semester, 21-credit Master's-level Library Media Certificate program which leads to a teaching endorsement as a K-12 library media specialist in AK, MT, and many other states.
- MSU LMC program has a national and international reputation for excellence, engagement, and access to quality online education for future school library media specialists.

Indigenous Perspectives in School Librarianship -Schedule of Recruitment Events

(check our social media for up to date info regarding events)

April 1st – [Application Due Date: Library Media Certificate Program](#)



Calling All Youth Artists!



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

Category 2:

6th Grade - 8th Grade

Category 3:

9th Grade - 12th Grade

FIRST PLACE in each category:

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:

1. A trophy and Certificate of Achievement.

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 Name

7. Previous year's first place winners are welcome to participate but are not eligible for first place prize.

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 cancelation 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
mdtaerosafetied@mt.gov
406-444-2506



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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.

APRIL						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
			1 Update and submit your School Nutrition Programs	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Virtual IEFA Conference Federal Training 9:00-10:30 am	14	15 Virtual IEFA Conference Federal Training 9:00-10:30 am	16 SRSA APPLICATION DEADLINE	17 Virtual IEFA Conference Federal Training 9:00-10:30 am	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Transformational Learning Webinar 9am	27	28	29	30		

MAY						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Aviation Awareness Art Contest Deadline	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 IEFA Conference Day 1
16 IEFA Conference Day 2	17 Trans-formational Learning Webinar 9 am	18	19	20	21	22
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 Summit	25	26	27
28	29	30 SFSP and NSLP waivers effectiveness end				