The OPI Monthly Summary: August 2020

Office of the Superintendent

Updates in Montana Education

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! Thank you for your dedication to ensuring that schools can safely reopen for academic success to continue. As we navigate these uncertain circumstances, the OPI is here to serve you, your staff, your students, and your communities. Please continue to stay in touch and let us know how we can be of service.

- As a reminder, the Reopening Montana Schools webpage will continue to be the best place to find the latest information from the OPI.
- You can find recordings of OPI Zoom meetings with school administrators and our education partners at this LINK.

Status of OPI flexibility requests

The OPI has requested the following waivers from the Governor which have been approved

- Waiver of off-site learning restrictions
- Pupil transportation support from the CRF

The OPI has requested the following waivers from the BPE:

- Licensure application extension- approved
- Maintain 2019-2020 accreditation status- pending
- Opening timelines in ARM 55 (accred.), 57 (lic.), 58, (ed. prep)- pending

The OPI has secured the following waivers from the USDA for the 2020-2021 school year:

- Non-congregate Feeding in the Child Nutrition Programs - EXTENSION #2
- Meal Service Time Flexibility in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, and Child and Adult Care Food Program - EXTENSION #2
- Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children - EXTENSION #2
- Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child Nutrition Programs - EXTENSION #4
- Offer versus Serve Flexibility for High Schools in the National School Lunch Program

Superintendent's Office August Zoom Events

- Board of Land Commissioners meeting
- Montana Chamber of Commerce meeting
- Education Northwest meeting
- MSUB meeting with Chancellor Groseth
- Montana State Library Commission meeting
- Board of Public Education special meeting on flexibilities
- Education Interim Committee meeting
- Montana School Safety Advisory Committee meeting
- Zoom calls with school administrators and education partners

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

Assessment

2020-2021 MontCAS Enhancements

The OPI Assessment Unit has shared several enhancements to the state assessment portals and the MontCAS program. Enhancements included reduced test set up for interims, fewer steps for district staff to manage user accounts in the assessment portals, and earlier access to Smarter Balanced interim tests. The Assessment Unit also announced the plan for the release of the STCs Corner website to System Test Coordinators (STC) this fall.

If you have questions about these updates, contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 1.844.867.2569 or OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

English Learner Exit Criteria

The OPI has received approval for Montana's new exit criteria for the English language proficiency (ELP) assessments. English learners must achieve an overall composite score of 4.7, rather than a 5.0, on the ELP assessment, ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 (or WIDA), to be considered proficient in English and to exit English learner status. Additionally, Montana defined proficiency as an achievement level "P2" on the alternate ELP assessment for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

For more information about the ELP assessments and the new exit criteria, contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 1.844.867.2569 or OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

Montana Science Assessments

Development continues on the new science assessments, Montana Science Assessment (MSA) and Alternate Montana Science Assessment (AMSA). The OPI Assessment Unit invites educators interested in participating in development activities to complete the 2021 Science Content Development Team application. The MSA will be delivered as an operational field test in Spring 2021 and results will be available after the testing window and test validation activities take place.

For more information, contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 1.844.867.2569 or OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

MontCAS Monthly Webinars

The schedule for the MontCAS Monthly Webinars has been posted to the State Testing webpages of the OPI website. The OPI Assessment Unit will host focused content to assist district and school staff with assessment-related tasks and activities. The MontCAS Monthly Webinar tab includes the schedule and links to join the live webinars for the 2020-2021 school year.

For more information, contact the OPI Assessment Help Desk at 1.844.867.2569 or OPIAssessmentHelpDesk@mt.gov.

Content Standards and Professional Learning

Contact Us!

- Colet Bartow, Senior Manager, Teaching and Learning Department, 406-444-3583
- Stephanie Swigart, English Language Arts and Literacy Coordinator, 406-444-0736
- Michelle McCarthy, Science Coordinator, 406-444-3537
- Marisa Graybill, Mathematics Coordinator, 406-444-0706
- Terri Barclay, Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program Manager, 406-444-0753
    - Literacy Grant Specialist, Liz Tuss
    - Literacy Grant Specialist, Rachel Anderberg
- Carli Cockrell, Professional Learning Coordinator, 406-444-0769
- Jessica Bryant, Teacher Learning Hub Coordinator, 406-444-3557
- Allyson Briese, Teacher Learning Content Specialist, 406-444-0716
- Marjorie O'Rourke, Professional Learning Data & Information Specialist, 406-444-3538

Remote Learning Resources

Visit the OPI Academic and Remote Learning Resources webpage for newly updated resources to support teaching and learning in any learning environment.

Visit the newly updated Just for Families webpage to access family road maps for content standards and other resources you can share with families who are wanting to learn more about how to support their students in remote learning.

Contact OPICSI@mt.gov with any questions.

Content Standards Revision – Public Hearings

The Board of Public Education will be holding hearings for public comment on Career and Technical Education, Computer Science, Library Media and Information Literacy, Social Studies, and Technology Integration Standards on September 2, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Written data, views, or arguments may also be submitted to: Peter Donovan, Executive Director, 46 North Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 200601, Helena, Montana, 59620-0601; telephone (406) 444-0302; fax (406) 444-0847; or e-mail pdonovan@mt.gov and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., September 9, 2020.

Hearing Time	Notice	Subject
10:00 a.m.	10-54-134	(Board of Public Education) Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption and Repeal - K-12 Career and Technical Education Content Standards.

10:15 a.m.	**10-55-135**	(Board of Public Education) Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption - K-12 Computer Science Content Standards.
10:30 a.m.	**10-55-136**	(Board of Public Education) Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal - Library Media Content Standards.
10:45 a.m.	**10-53-137**	(Board of Public Education) Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal - Technology Integration Content Standards.
11:00 a.m.	**10-55-138**	(Board of Public Education) Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Adoption, Amendment, and Repeal - K-12 Social Studies Content Standards.

For any questions about the hearings, please contact Kris Stockton, Administrative Assistant, Board of Public Education.

Zoom Meeting Information
Topic: Content Standards Revisions Public Hearings
Time: Sep 2, 2020 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)
Meeting Link
Meeting ID: 931 6232 7751 Password: 838190
Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999
Find your local number: https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/ahvwp4KLh

Contact Colet Bartow cbartow@mt.gov with any questions.

Professional Learning Info for School Leaders

Schools are encouraged to be Renewal Unit Providers as the bulk of educator professional learning occurs in the school setting. Schools are also able to issue renewal unit certificates for professional learning that occurred external to the school environment if the organization that provided the professional learning is not an existing renewal unit provider AND if the professional learning opportunity meets the Administrative Rules of Montana related to Professional Development.

Visit the OPI Administrators Professional Learning webpage for more information.

Contact OPI Professional Learning Coordinator Carli Cockrell with any questions.

OPI Learning Opportunities Portal

Visit the Learning Opportunities Portal website to find out about classes, workshops, and courses. The Portal is just one of the ways the OPI informs educators about upcoming professional learning opportunities in our state. We are updating with any cancellations or postponements as we are made aware of these changes.

Contact Carli Cockrell with any questions or to let us know about changes to your events.

Learning Hub

If you haven't already, check out what more than 16,000 Montana educators have experienced! The 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.

Take a look at these courses to help support your interests and planning for the upcoming school year and the exciting potential for online, remote, or blended learning integration!

- Introduction to Online Course Design - introduction to the basics of online learning and design (1 renewal unit)
- Digital Accessibility Fundamentals - tutorial on how to make digital content accessible to all learners (1 renewal unit)
- UDL: Digital Tools and Digital Learning - covers the basic principle of universal design for learning, practical strategies, and tools for all grade levels (2 renewal units)
- Digital Citizenship - learn to foster students' safe, ethical, and responsible uses of technology (2 renewal units)
- Moving CTAE to Online and Remote Learning - Designed to help CTAE teachers understand how to start the year to lead to successful learning no matter if learning is in-person, remote, or blended, how to do hands-on activities in an online environment, and where to find further training and resources. (3 renewal units)
- Tech-ify Your Classroom! The Basics of K-5 Technology Integration - covers the basics of meaningful, effective technology integration in grades K-5 (4 renewal units)
- Platform specific courses: Google Suite for Beginners (6 renewal units), Google Suite Advanced (20 renewal units), Student Created Digital Learning Portfolios - SeeSaw (15 renewal units)

We are working on more courses to support online learning and will announce those as they are launched. Stay tuned!

Contact OPILearningHub@mt.gov with any questions.

Transformational Learning Webinars

Learn more about the OPI's Transformational Learning Webinars.

Contact Krystal Smith

Data and Technology

AIM: Submit Student Information on Time

Here's some help to keep AIM deadlines clear and on your list of things to get done:

#1: Remember, there are those **kinds of information you should enter all year long**, with no specific deadline. These are:

1. Behavior
2. Enrollment
3. EL Identification
4. Optional Assessment Information for Interims

#2: First official "date" specific deadlines are October 9th and 19th, which gives you a little time before your first submissions are due. BUT, it never hurts to be reminded, and here's the actual breakdown:

1. Beginning of Year Verification, Oct 9th
2. Fall EL Assessment Verification, October 19th

See the Calendar for all the Submission Details

For more information, contact the OPI AIM Help Desk, **1-877-424-6681 or 406-444-3800.**

Federal Updates
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) Update
Log onto the OPI ESSA home page, here, to find recorded webinars to learn about the Targeted Support and Improvement Designation including:

- School Identification Criteria
- School Exit Criteria
- TSI Competitive Grant Opportunity: OPEN September 1, 2020 in E-grants
- Grant Requirements
- Opportunities for Support

Join us for the next TSI Webinar that outlines the Grant Application. The webinar will be recorded and placed on the OPI ESSA webpage after the live presentation.

September 3rd, 2020
2:00 to 3:00pm
https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/2453613920

For more information, contact Crystal Andrews at Crystal.Andrews@mt.gov

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) Update

During the 2020-2021 school year, the Title I School Support Unit will partner with CSI schools identified through a **regional support model** to:
- Support the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (Operational and Instructional Components) process
- Assist schools in developing a Continuous Improvement Plan (CIC) including specific strategies
  - Building community capacity to support kindergarten transitions;
  - Building school board efficiency through a school board coach;
  - Providing wraparound services to students and their families (e.g., mental and physical health services, mentoring);
  - Engaging students in school improvement through youth voice and advocacy work;
  - Supporting culturally responsive practices, particularly for American Indian communities;
  - Implementing systemic literacy and math improvements through specialized instructional personnel including a variety of educators, as well as library media and digital literacy an
  - Use of the Montana Early Warning System to identify students at risk of dropping out of school, apply targeted interventions based on student needs, and track interventions over time to determine if the interventions are working.
- Provide ongoing support in achieving the goals in the CIC
- Assist schools in developing processes and procedures
- Participate in school leadership team meetings and district leadership meetings
- Provide professional development or connects them to other resources
- Provide technical assistance in progress monitoring and collecting of data
- Assist districts in establishing an assessment plan
- Assist districts in creating calendars for testing, meetings, etc.…

For more information, contact Carrie Kouba at Carrie.Kouba@mt.gov

Student Support Services
At-Risk Simulation Courses

The OPI Learning Hub will continue to offer **Kognito's At-Risk for K-12 Educators** that teach elementary, middle, and high school educators about mental health and suicide prevention. These interactive professional development simulations use role-play with emotionally responsive virtual students to help teachers, staff, and administrators learn the skills of motivational interviewing, skills they can use to help students open up about and connect with support. Kognito recently developed Resources and Tips for Using the Simulations and Re-entry

into the Classroom: How to Prepare Educators to Welcome Back Students we hope you find helpful.

For more information contact Tammy Lysons.

Youth Vaping and Covid-19

A recent Stanford University study found that among youth who were tested for Covid-19, those who had ever vaped were 5 times more likely to be diagnosed with the virus than those who had not, and those who had vaped and smoked in the last 30 days were 7 times more likely. We hope these youth tobacco use prevention resources will be helpful to Montana teachers and administrators whether you're operating remotely, returning to school buildings or offering any blended approach this year.

If you'd like more information about youth tobacco use prevention resources, please contact Kris Minard.

Montana's 21st Century Community Learning Centers Receive Successful State Evaluation

Montana's 21st Century Community Learning Centers received a successful evaluation for the 2018-2019 program year. The evaluation shows programs made positive impacts on students, schools, and communities. A recent press release provides additional information. Please visit the OPI's website to view the evaluation brief, full report, and to learn more about the program.

For more information, contact Michelle Cusey.

Montana YRBS Update and New Reports

The biennial 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) is being planned for the last week of February, or a timeframe that works for your district. The registration packet for the 2021 Montana Youth Risk Behavior Survey will be mailed to superintendents October 1. Three new Montana YRBS reports have been added to the series of 'Special Reports' on the YRBS web site: Sleep Deprivation, Screen Time, and Vaping Report. As always, check out your *School-Specific Results* which are always available for accessing from the YRBS web site.

For more on the YRBS contact Susan Court, 406-444-3178.

School Nutrition Programs Waivers for the 2020-21 School Year

The OPI School Nutrition Programs will be using five national US Department of Agriculture waivers during the 2020-21 school year to give districts flexibility in providing meals to students. The waivers are effective for the entire school year through June 2021.

1. Non-congregate Feeding waiver allows districts to provide meals to students who are doing distance learning. Students do not need to eat their meals on the school campus.
2. Meal Service Time Flexibility waiver allows schools to establish meal service times that support streamlined access to nutritious meals. Students may be provided lunch, and at the same time, breakfast for the next morning.
3. Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children waiver allows schools to distribute meals to parents or guardians to take home to their children.   Children do not need to be present for the pick-up of meals, but schools need to have procedures for accurate meal counting per student.
4. Meal Pattern Flexibility waiver allows schools to request a change to the meal pattern for safety measures. Schools are encouraged to meet the nutrition standards to the greatest extent possible. The OPI will approve the use of this waiver on a case-by-case basis.
5. Offer versus Serve Flexibility waiver allows high schools to serve complete meals for delivery or pickup for students doing distance learning.

NEW School Re-Entry FAQs for School Nutrition

For more information, contact School Nutrition Programs at 406-444-2501.

Minimizing COVID-19 Risk within Driver Education

District personnel are encouraged to consult with their local health department, union representatives, and school administration to determine best practices for resuming Driver Education for the 2020-2021 school year. Districts should include Traffic Education recommendations in district re-entry plans in combination with the following considerations.

- Employ a mix of delivery methods for traffic education that may include distance learning as well as face to face instruction. A model Teen Driver Education Curriculum is available on our website and is a great resource for Traffic Education teachers.
- The required minimum 25 student contact days may be taught through e-learning by an approved traffic education teacher.
- Virtual instruction practices should be carefully documented as districts will need to provide a narrative describing the accommodations made during this time.
- Teachers will want to carefully assess and document students' knowledge and skills when conducting e-learning assessment practices.
- Behind-the-wheel instruction, CDTP testing, and vision screening can only be conducted face to face. Districts should maintain the Governor's social distancing protocols as they plan to resume these components.

We understand that you are still fielding a lot of questions from families who are concerned about waiting lists for Driver Education classes due to spring closures. We've compiled a list of Driver Education FAQs for Montana Families to help answer questions. Feel free to direct families to our website to help them better understand how state Driver Education laws and the impacts of the postponement and cancellation of spring and summer classes.

Contact Tara Ferriter-Smith or Patti Borneman for more information.

Suicide Prevention Scholarship Contest

The OPI is partnering with Shodair Children's Hospital and other partners on an essay scholarship contest for suicide prevention. Learn more at this LINK.

Purple Star Contest

The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission is recognizing Montana schools that go above and beyond to serve military families with the Purple Star Award. Your school can apply at this LINK.

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