

OPI Summary of Activities August 2018

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Office of the Superintendent

Updates in Montana Education

Welcome back to school! The Office of Public Instruction looks forward to another year of serving all of Montana's students and schools.

School Safety

OPI is applying for a new federal safety grant called *Grants to States for School Emergency Management Programs*. This is a 5-year/\$250,000 annual grant which would allow OPI to hire one federal FTE to assist school districts in building school safety capacity and assisting in school emergency planning and management. This work would complement our STOP grant application which we hope to hear is successful in September.

Teacher of the Year

A diverse selection committee met on August 28th to narrow our applicant field from 14 to 3 finalists. A new committee will meet on September 11th to select the 2019 Montana Teacher of the Year.

Flag Notifications

With the start of the new school year, we have had administrators asking about notifications when the flag is declared to be flown at half-staff. You can sign up to get these notifications [here](#) and check the flag status at any time on the state's main webpage: <https://mt.gov/>.

OPI Calendar

The OPI will begin posting our external events on the state's [public calendar](#).

Superintendent's August Events

- Meetings with the University System on collaboration opportunities
- Montana State Library Commission meeting
- Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission and school events in Great Falls
- Meetings with the Montana Chamber of Commerce on youth entrepreneurship
- Perkins State Executive Leadership Team meeting to discuss Perkins reauthorization
- Meetings with the Governor's Office regarding workforce development
- Monthly Land Board meeting
- Monthly meeting of education advocacy statewide partner organizations
- Meeting with the Montana Building and Industry Association on workforce development
- Meeting with Montana Comprehensive Literacy Grant leaders in Livingston
- Ribbon cutting ceremony and first day of school at the new Prickly Pear Elementary
- Budget planning for the next biennium

Follow Superintendent Arntzen on social media:  

For more information, contact dylan.klapmeier@mt.gov or 406-444-3559



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



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



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



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

Federal/ESSA Update

New Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program

All districts have the option to use their Title IV A funds to run a Title IV A program to support the needs of their local school district and community; however, districts funded below \$30,000 that have all schoolwide programs can also move the funds to Title I, and general transferability rules allow a transfer to Title II also.

Newly authorized under subpart 1 of Title IV, Part A of the ESEA is the Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE) program. The SSAE program is intended to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity of state education agencies (SEAs), local education agencies (LEAs), and local communities to provide all students with:

- **Access to a well-rounded education**
- **Improve school conditions for student learning, safe and healthy students**
- **Improve the use of technology to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students**

Montana used a formulary grant to ensure all districts in MT that received Title I allocations received funding under Title IV Part A. School districts that receive an allocation **above \$30,000** must conduct a needs assessment and must then spend 20% of their grant on safe and healthy school activities and 20% on activities to provide well-rounded education programs. The remaining 60% of the money can be spent on all three priorities, including technology. However, within technology there is a 15% cap on spending for devices, equipment, software and digital content. If districts receive an allocation **below \$30,000**, the law does not require a needs assessment. Districts must spend money on activities in at least one of the three categories. If districts chose to spend in the well-rounded and/or safe and healthy students' programs, an allocation must not be less than 20% of the total allocation. If districts chose to spend in technology, once again there is a 15% cap on spending for devices, equipment, software and digital content. School safety and climate are a priority in Montana and the OPI encourages all districts to use their new Title IV, Part A funds to ensure their students are learning in safe, positive school environments.

Three Categories of Spending Are on the Next Page...

Three Categories of Spending Under Title IV, Part A:

Safe and Healthy Students	Well-Rounded Education Programs	Effective Use of Technology
<p>Ensuring all students are healthy and feel safe and supported is central to the shared work across programs. Research shows that when schools and districts effectively focus on creating a safe, healthy, and supportive environment, students are more likely to engage in the curriculum, achieve academically, and develop positive relationships.</p>	<p>Providing all students with access to a well- rounded education as a means of improving academic achievement. Ensuring all students have access to a holistic well-rounded education is central to the shared work across programs.</p>	<p>Promoting digital literacy of all students and providing professional development to the educators that teach and support them. Ensuring that all students build the capacities necessary for thriving as 21st century learners and workforce contributors, program initiatives fall under three categories, Digital Citizenship, Personalized Learning and Improving Equity for All Learners.</p>
<p>Supporting safe and healthy students with comprehensive school mental health, drug and violence prevention, training on trauma-informed practices, bullying prevention, dropout prevention, re-entry programs & transition services, child sexual abuse awareness & prevention, promoting supportive school discipline, suicide prevention, health & physical education, mentoring & school counseling and schoolwide positive behavioral interventions & supports.</p>	<p>Supporting students with a well-rounded education including programs such as English, reading or language arts, writing, science, technology, engineering, mathematics, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history, geography, computer science, music, career and technical education, health, physical education, and any other subject with the purpose of providing all students access to an enriched curriculum and educational experience.</p>	<p>Supporting the effective use of technology that is backed by professional development, blended learning and education tech devices. cybersecurity should be considered within the larger framework of school and district emergency preparedness activities that address security, safety, and emergency management. Additionally, LEAs and schools must develop written policies and procedures, and measures to ensure safe and responsible uses of technology.</p>

Accreditation Division (also Health Enhancement & Safety and Assessment)

Negotiated Rulemaking

The Montana Hazard and Emergency Response Plans Negotiated Rulemaking Committee held their first meeting on August 14th. Video of the meeting can be viewed [here](#).

The Student Assessment Negotiated Rulemaking Committee met on August 6th to begin the work to reach consensus on the OPI-proposed rule amendments for student assessment (ARM 10.56.101). The committee is scheduled to meet again on October 1, 2018 to gain consensus on the OPI-proposed rule amendments and to review the economic impact survey for school districts. For more information about the negotiated rulemaking process, please visit the [Student Assessment Negotiated Rulemaking Committee](#) page.

Variance to Standards

Standards of accreditation are outlined in the [Montana Code Annotated \(MCA\) 20-7-101](#): (1) Standards of accreditation for all schools must be adopted by the board of public education upon the recommendations of the superintendent of public instruction. The Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) contain the standards that guarantee students the benefits of attendance in accredited schools in Title 10, Chapter 55.

The revised [ARM 10.55.604 Variances to Standards](#) rule allows a local board of trustees to apply for a variance to a standard or a section of standards, excluding standards stating statutory criteria, standards pertaining to educator licensure and endorsement, and content standards. The intent of the revised Variances to Standards is to: (1) provide options and innovation to school districts to help ensure educational quality and accountability, and (2) create a pre-appointed review board that will make recommendations to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for approval, modification, or rejection of all variance to standard applications. More info can be found [here](#).

If you have questions, please contact Rehanna Olsen at ROlson2@mt.gov or 406-444-3114.

Career, Technical, & Adult Education

2018-2019 Calendars Posted on the Secondary CTE webpage

The CTE Calendar of Events and the CTE DUE DATES and DEADLINES calendars have been posted to the CTE web page located at this link: <http://opi.mt.gov/Educators/Teaching-Learning/Career-Technical-Education>. The calendars are located under the CTE Updates tab. Please feel free to print and post both important calendars for your reference throughout the year.

2018-2019 Carl D. Perkins Grant is Open

The 2018-2019 Federal Carl D. Perkins E-Grant application is open and available for public high school districts to open and complete. Notification to all Authorized Representatives was sent out by email on July 9, 2019, from Karla Beagles, E-Grants Program Manager. This means you can create a new application for 2018-2019 and begin working on it. The application must be created by September 15, 2019 and approved by October 31, 2018.

For questions about the Carl D. Perkins Federal Grant program, or about your application, please contact one of the following:

[Shannon Boswell](#), Agriculture Education Specialist - 406.444.4451

[Renee Erlandsen](#), Health Sciences Education Specialist - 406.994.6986

[Christy Hendricks](#), CTE/Perkins Data Control Specialist - 406.444.9019

[Don Michalsky](#), Industrial Trades and Technology Specialist - 406.444.4452

[Eric Swenson](#), Business Education Specialist - 406.444.7991

[Megan Vincent](#), Family & Consumer Sciences Specialist - 406.444.3599

Educational Opportunity and Equity Division

2019 Title I Conference

Due to changing priorities, the Title I Unit will not be holding a Title I Conference in 2019. We hope to see you again in 2020.

Important E-Grants Due Dates

Listed below are several important upcoming Egrants due dates:

- September 1-Last day to create an amendment for funds received during SY2017-18 with approval from Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent
- September 15-Last day to Open/Create an Egrant Application for SY2018-19 without approval from Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent
- October 31-Districts must have a submitted and approved Egrant Application by this date.

For more information, contact Jack O'Connor at joconnor2@mt.gov or 406-444-3083

Indian Education Division

“Montana Proud” American Indian Poster Series

The Office of Public Instruction’s Indian Education Division is having a second round of “Montana Proud” American Indian poster series. The posters showcase young Montana American Indians and tell their success stories.

Posters of these 14 individuals will be sent to every Montana middle and high school. They are meant to promote American Indian culture and inspire all Montana students to succeed. They can be downloaded [here](#).

For more information, contact [Stephen Morsette](#), 406-444-0754