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## **ESSA UPDATE April 3, 2017**

### **ESSA is:**

- The Every Student Succeeds Act signed into law in 2015 replaces No Child Left Behind and reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- The purpose of Montana ESSA Plan is to show how Montana is working to ensure federal standards are met on various federally funded programs while allowing flexibility and ensuring community input. We want to use ESSA as a vehicle to accomplish our priorities, goals and vision for education in Montana.

### **Montana State Plan Previously:**

- Submitted Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> after a handful of meetings including stakeholders across the state as well as the ongoing work of over 70 OPI employees.
- We are honoring the work that was done and plan to “**Update and Build Upon**”.
- We have received feedback from Education Northwest, the Center for Assessment and CCSSO. We have also done a thorough analysis amongst our staff and there are areas of the previous plan we will build upon.
  - Long-term goals will be extended and better defined.
  - Growth and improvement will be the goal for all schools.
  - Another look at a detailed plan for schools that are in improvement status along with an exit plan for them.
  - A deeper dive into college and career readiness will take place.
  - Areas of the plan are no longer required; therefore, we may not add or be as detailed in these sections so that local districts are allowed more flexibility

## **New Regulation and Template:**

- ESSA allows for more local control and flexibility for schools; the new template has less documentation required.
- Congress voted to rescind accountability and teacher preparation regulations. We are required to submit less documentation and have more local control.
- There are 3 new requirements as of March 13<sup>th</sup>:

### **1) Long-term goals for English language proficiency**

### **2) Awarding sub grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) under the new Student Support and Academic Enrichment program in Title IV, Part A**

It will be a formula allocation to the states and then formula out to districts. There are three permissible categories of activities (well-rounded education; safe and healthy schools; and technology): Once at the district level, there is an if-then. If a district's allocation is greater than \$30,000 (unlikely for most MT districts), then the district must conduct a needs assessment and expend funds in certain categories (20% of funds on well-rounded education; another 20% on safe and healthy schools; while the remaining 60% can go to any of the three permissible categories. Max of 15% can go to technology. If a district's allocation is less than \$30,000, the 20% rules don't apply but the 15% technology cap does. No needs assessment is required.

-Summary explanation provided by Aurora Moore with Education Northwest

### **3) Development of a plan for ways in which homeless youth will receive assistance from counselors to prepare for college.**

## **Our Plan to Move Forward:**

- We plan to have robust meetings with stakeholders and community leaders across the state this spring and summer. These meeting will be smaller focus groups as we move through each topic and new requirement to build on the work that has already been done.
- We plan to provide the public with a draft plan in July so that we have time to utilize the feedback and make changes before we give a revised draft to the governor. We plan to have documents coming out as we complete work on each section or item number so that we are continually sharing and receiving feedback and input.
- Weekly ESSA updates including information from the Department of Education, work sessions scheduled in Montana and progress of the plan will be posted on the OPI web site beginning in April.
- We plan to submit our plan using the revised template for the September 18<sup>th</sup> submission window.
- CURRENTLY: OPI Staff Meetings and Collaboration to Plan Next Steps and Work Sessions
- COMING SOON: Timeline and Upcoming Events