



Dear Partners in Education,

June 1, 2017

Please Join Us for Our Upcoming Webinars

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is inviting you to participate and provide feedback on our upcoming webinars on specific topics for the Montana State ESSA Plan. The webinars are around ten minutes long and have guiding documents you can review beforehand. All of the information can be found on the ESSA tab on the OPI website. We are going to have webinars for each of the areas of the plan that we are revisiting in order to build upon and edit due to feedback, new requirements or peer review expectations. You can also find the feedback Montana has received on the plan submitted in December and the Peer Review Criteria the Department of Education Released on the OPI website under ESSA. The first webinars will be on long-term goals and accountability indicators and will be up this week!

Focus Groups Coming Soon

The Montana Office of Public Instruction will use the feedback from the webinars to guide focus groups on areas of the plan which may need to have further robust discussions. We will invite those interested in these specific areas to join us in completing the work on these topics for the draft plan that will be provided to the public.

The Previous Plan Submitted in December

The plan submitted on December 28th has given us a great foundation and we are greatly appreciative and continue to reflect on and utilize all of the great work that was done by previous stakeholders and OPI staff. We are updating and building upon the work done previously and have continued to use the feedback that was given on the first plan by stakeholders and the community. OPI staff are taking a critical look at specific aspects and sections of the plan to determine how we can work with all of you to build upon them using new guidance we now have including the Peer Review Criteria which outline the expectations of the Department of Education and feedback from experts at the national level. We have met with hundreds of our partners in education over the last few months specifically to discuss ESSA and to ask for participation as we move forward with creating a draft plan for the public throughout June. We have met with over half of the previous stakeholders and plan to have weekly email communication as well as a wealth of information on our website in the coming months while we work with all of Montana to write a plan that is reflective of our diverse schools, communities, and students.

ESSA TIMELINE

<i>May & June</i>	<i>OPI Staff work sessions, Statewide Visits to Discuss ESSA & Focus Groups Begin</i>
<i>July 12th</i>	<i>Draft to the Public</i>
<i>August 11th</i>	<i>Draft to the Governor</i>
<i>September 14th</i>	<i>Submit to the Department of Education for Peer Review</i>

Please send feedback, input and questions to ESSAinput@mt.gov