

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501
406.444.5643
In-State Toll-free: 1.888.231.9393
TTY Users: 406.444.0235
opi.mt.gov

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A+**



MEETING PROJECT NAME: Education Advocates Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: March 24, 2020

TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Conference Call

ATTENDEES:

PRESENT: As best of our records could show

McCall Flynn, Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BOPE)

Dianne Burke, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC)

Kirk Miller, Executive Director of School Administrators of Montana (SAM)

Pad McCracken, Legislative Services

Alison Harmon, Dean of Education, MSU

Marco Ferro, Public Policy Director, Montana Federation of Public Employees (MFPE)

Julia Platt, Fiscal Analyst II Expenditure Analysis, Department of Health and Human Services (DPHHS)

Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney, Legislative Services

Lance Melton, Executive Director, Montana School Boards Association

Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

OPI STAFF

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent

Jason Butcher, Assistant Deputy Superintendent

Tracy Moseman, Health Enhancement Division Administrator

Julia Swingley, Chief Legal Counsel

Ken Bailey, Chief Financial Officer

Colet Bartow, CSI Division Administrator

Dylan Klapmeier, Director of Communications and Federal Regulations

Ashley McGrath, State Assessment Director

Nichole Thuotte, Financial Specialist School Finance

Kara Flath, School Finance Director

Julie Murgel, School Improvement ESSA Coordinator

Sharyl Allen, Transformational & Personalized Learning Manager

RECORD KEEPER

Christy Perryman, Administrative Clerk, Office of Public Instruction

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

School Elections, Nichole Thuotte

- No change to election date or timeline as of March 24, 2020
- In communication with counties, Legislature and Education Advocates

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Remote Learning Opportunities, Colet Bartow

- [Online Learning Resources Webpage](#)
 - [Distance Learning Options Chart](#) (MTDA)
 - [Remote Learning Sharing Sessions](#)
 - [Introduction to Online Course](#) Design (Hub)
 - [Montana Teachers of the Year Video](#)

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Transportation, Kara Flath

- Working with MTSBA for flexibility in transportation
- Keeping state funding flexible for school districts

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

ACT Testing, Dylan Klapmeier

- Materials follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Other business, Superintendent Elsie Arntzen

- Kirk Miller - Survey
- McCall Flynn - Online Learning Plans
- Colet Bartow - PBS is modifying their daytime schedule for education delivery aligned to state standards
- Dennis Parman – Access to internet for rural students

Thank you for your patience and **Putting Montana Students First** during this uncertain time.

From: [Klapmeier, Dylan](#)
To: [Ogden, Karen](#); [McGrath, Ashley](#); [McLean, Angela](#); [Bailey, Kenneth](#); [Perryman, Christy](#)
Subject: FW: Office of Public Instruction, Montana University System Announce Free ACT Opportunities for Students
Date: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:42:24 AM

From: Montana Office of Public Instruction <MTOPI@announcements.mt.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 11:40 AM
To: Klapmeier, Dylan <Dylan.Klapmeier@mt.gov>
Subject: Office of Public Instruction, Montana University System Announce Free ACT Opportunities for Students

Montana Office of Public Instruction News



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2020

CONTACT: [Dylan Klapmeier](#), OPI, 406-444-3559

[Karen Ogden](#), MUS, 406-449, 9173

Office of Public Instruction, Montana University System Announce Free ACT Opportunities for Students

HELENA—The Office of Public Instruction and Montana University System announced today that Montana juniors will have the opportunity to take the ACT free of charge this coming fall semester of their senior year. Normally, current juniors would take the ACT in the spring as Montana’s statewide standardized test for federal accountability. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak and Montana’s pending waiver request from standardized tests, it is likely that juniors will not be taking the ACT this spring.

“In this time of uncertainty, Montana students, families, and educators should be focused on their health and safety not fulfilling standardized test requirements,” **Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen said Tuesday.** “I am pleased that Montana high school students who wish to take the ACT in pursuit of post-secondary education will have the opportunity to take it free of charge this fall.”

The ACT has been Montana’s state standardized exam for high school students since

2016 for federal accountability purposes. It also serves as an important entry requirement for colleges and universities.

“The Montana University System provides all high school juniors the opportunity to take the ACT so that all are able to apply for college and that’s even more important in these challenging times,” **said Montana Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton T. Christian.** “Rather than allowing the test to be canceled, my office worked directly with the ACT organization to reschedule the exam for this fall. Students who wish to take the test over the summer may do so, but must cover their test fees and make their own travel arrangements to visit a test center. By rescheduling the test to a regular school day in October, we’ve made sure that travel and cost are not a barrier. This is a critical part of our mission to provide all Montanans the opportunity to pursue education after high school.”

The ACT is administered by the OPI and funded through a grant from the Montana University System. Schools will have the ability to administer the ACT on October 6th (initial), October 20th (makeup), and November 3rd (emergency). More information on assessments can be found on the OPI’s [website](#).

###

Contact:

[Dylan Klapmeier](#), 406-444-3559

Director of Communications

The OPI is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation, require an alternate format, or have questions concerning accessibility, contact the OPI ADA Coordinator, 406-444-3161, opiada@mt.gov, Relay Service: 711.



Stay Connected with:
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)

This email was sent to dylan.klapmeier@mt.gov using GovDelivery Communications Cloud, on behalf of:
Montana Office of Public Instruction · 707 17th St, Suite 4000 · Denver, CO 80202

GovDelivery logo

