

Elsie Arntzen, Superintendent

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
STATE OF MONTANA

Putting Montana Students First **A+**



MEETING PROJECT NAME: Education Advocates Meeting
DATE OF MEETING: May 28, 2020
TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

ATTENDEES:

PRESENT: As best of our records could show

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

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

McCall Flynn, Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

Jule Walker, Field Specialist, Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)

Laura Sankey Keip, Attorney, Legislative Services

Dylan Huisken, Montana Teacher of the Year 2019

Angela McLean, Director, American Indian and Minority Achievement

Mark Beckman, Montana High School Association

Nancy Hall, Governor's Office of the Budget and Program Planning (OBPP)

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

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

Emily Dean, Director of Advocacy, Montana School Boards Association

Pad McCracken, Legislative Services

OPI STAFF

Elsie Arntzen, State Superintendent

Sharyl Allen, Deputy Superintendent

Tracy Moseman, Health Enhancement Division Administrator

Dylan Klapmeier, Communications Director

Ken Bailey, Chief Financial Officer

Julia Swingley, Chief Legal Counsel

Christine Emerson, School Nutrition Programs Director

Jay Phillips, CSD Division Administrator

Kris Thatcher, Educator Licensure Program Manager

RECORD KEEPER

Christy Perryman, Administrative Clerk, Office of Public Instruction

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

CARES Dollars Application, *Ken Bailey and Jay Phillips*

- 100% Complete
- Open Monday, June 1, 2020
- 2 Grants
- Timing of Payments
- Calculations
- Equitable Services – Materials Follow

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Nutrition Update, *Christine Emerson*

- Materials Follow

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

[Full Education Advocates meeting can be listened to at this link](#)

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Following up on the discussion regarding the equitable sharing communications to the field, there were actually two communications. The attached email “Non-public school update’ was sent to county superintendents requesting they update the listing of private schools in their county to include all private schools in operation on March 13. “CARES ACT Private School Equitable Share Update.docx” was sent to district authorized reps, county superintendents, and school superintendents. If you have any questions please contact Ken Bailey (406) 444 2562 or Jack O’Connor (406) 444 3083.

From: Maloney, Cathy
To: macss@sammt.org
Cc: [Gross, Christy](#); [O'Connor, Jack](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: Non-public school update
Date: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 2:18:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
Importance: High

Hello County Soups,

Hope that you are all doing well, kinda weird is the vibe I'm getting, with signs of spring. Staying safe and distant, no hugging – this is very hard for me. Optimistic that our state will weather this, and we'll be back to kind of normal before too long.

Jack O'Connor has asked that we all go in to update the home school list – this is including all before March 13th this year. Details are below, he and his staff are quite helpful if you need help. I missed seeing you, and look forward to the next time I get to, stay safe and well – xo Cathy

From: O'Connor, Jack
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Maloney, Cathy
Subject: Non-public school update
Importance: High

This message did not originate from a Butte-Silver Bow email account and therefore cannot be validated. Please ensure you respond accordingly and proceed with caution.

Cathy,

The CARES Act of 2020 states that there will be an equitable share set aside for all private/non-public schools that were in operation on or before March 13, 2020. Normally, county superintendents do their yearly update to the non-public schools in October. Would you be able to send out an email to your group letting know that the OPI needs them to update their list of non-publics in the OPI web app for private school participation? Here is the link:

<https://apps.opi.mt.gov/nonpublicschool/frmLogin.aspx>. They will just put them in under the Fall Count button under the Data Entry tab. They only need to enter non-publics that registered between the October count date and March 13, 2020. If you have questions, please let me know.

Jack

Jack O'Connor

Federal Grants Unit Director

Title I Director

Private School Ombudsman

Montana Office of Public Instruction

- Phone: 406-444-3083
- TTY: 406-444-0235
- Website: <http://opi.mt.gov/>
- Email: joconnor2@mt.gov

Messages and attachments sent to or from this email account pertaining to the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow business may be considered public or private records depending on the message content (Article II Section 9, Montana Constitution; 2-6 MCA).



To: Authorized Representatives, County Superintendents, and Principals
From: Jack O'Connor, Federal Programs Director
Re: CARES Act funding for Non-public Schools

CARES ACT Private School Equitable Share Update

The CARES Act of 2020 states that private/non-public schools may receive an equitable share of the funding to offset costs and other associated issues relating to educating their students during the COVID-19 pandemic. As under regular federal program law, private/non-public schools may receive equitable services based upon a proportional share of the funding, but direct cash payments to these entities are not allowed. Even though Montana districts recently completed their private/non-public school participation in federal programs questionnaires a month ago, Montana districts will be required to complete the process again asking these entities if they want to participate in equitable share services under the CARES Act of 2020. Please note that all CARES Act funds received by a district are subject to the equitable share provision.

The calculation for the proportional share for Cares Act funds is also different than Title I as it is the proportion of the enrollment at the private/non-public school divided by the total public and private/non-public enrollment in the district.

The OPI understands the burden this places upon the district in both time and fiscal resources. However, districts may not receive nor use CARES Act funds until the private/non-public school participation has been addressed. It is because of the OPI's intent to get CARES Act funding to districts as soon as possible that we are requiring the window be reopened as soon as possible. Even if the non-public has checked do not contact within the OPI web application, the district must contact the school with the CARES Act funding option.

The link to the new system is: <https://apps.opi.mt.gov/nonpublicschool/frmLogin.aspx>.

Here are the directions to input data into the system:

1. Hover over the Data entry tab.
2. Click on the CARES Act Participation Data-District tab.
3. Update by selecting the private/home school from the dropdown menu.
4. Select CARES Act funding if the non-public school wants to participate.
5. If the non-public does not return the document, check NR-No Response
6. Hit the Save button.

Call Andy Boehm at (406) 444-0375 or email aboehm@mt.gov for assistance.

Districts must follow the normal procedure for contacting private/non-public schools, which includes sending a certified letter informing non-public schools of their right to participate in the CARES Act funding. However, the OPI is shortening the window to respond to ten consecutive days. The district must also hold consultation with any entity that is interested in participation. More information regarding this training can be found at the following link: <http://opi.mt.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=-XpKcNysIZ4%3d&portalid=182> The list of participating non-public schools can be found at the following link: <https://apps.opi.mt.gov/nonpublicschool/frmLogin.aspx>. Districts will enter the participating private/non-public schools within the OPI private school web application after the forms are returned. Districts will also have to enter the private/non-public schools and their enrollments in Egrants. The OPI recommends that districts use the following language in their notification to non-public schools:

Dear Private/Non-Public School Leader:

The CARES ACT of 2020 gives the state of Montana supplemental educational funds for all public schools. Part of these funds must be set aside for private/non-public schools to participate. These funds will be set aside as a proportional share of the CARES Act funds to provide equitable educational services to non-public school students. Please note that non-public schools may not receive direct cash payments from the district.

Due to these new funds, <DISTRICT NAME> is reopening the window to ask non-public schools if they want to participate in equitable share services under the CARES Act of 2020. Please return the enclosed document by <DATE>. You will have 10 days from the receipt of this notification to return it. If the form is not returned by the stated date, the district will mark your school as “Not Participating”. If you have further questions, please contact <STATE DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION>.

Sincerely,

School District Official



Jack O'Connor
Title I Director
Federal Grants Unit Director
Private School Ombudsman
Montana Office of Public Instruction

- Phone: 406-444-3083
- Website: www.opi.mt.gov
- Email: joconnor2@mt.gov



Nutrition Update May 28, 2020

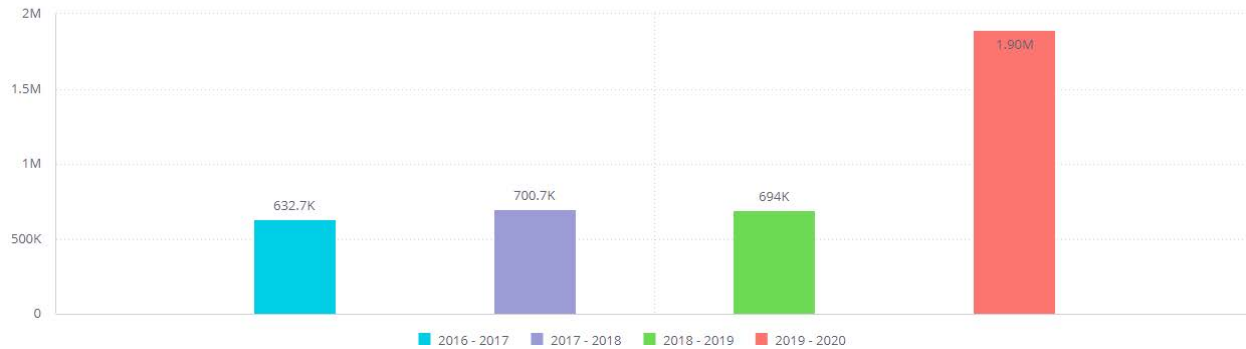
- o COVID-19 Data
- o Schools that have Opened
- o Summer Deployment



- Many schools in Montana have quickly responded to the needs of their students and are currently providing meals through the available flexibilities for operation during unanticipated school closures and the removal of the congregate feeding requirement. Since March 16th, 151 SFA Sponsors have moved from operating the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) to operating the SFSP. Of these **151 (of 253) SFA Sponsors, 85 registered as new SFSP sponsors for Summer 2020**. On average, MT OPI adds 1-2 new sponsors each year.

SFSP Sponsor Claim Meals Dashboard

SFSP Meals Served by Year



SNP Claims

Month	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
March	0	0	0	258
April	3	0	1	69

SFSP Claims

Month	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
March	1	1	0	127
April	0	3	0	152



Lockwood Public Schools

Sure, I'd be happy to share.

We have been doing **curbside pickup and utilizing buses to deliver** into the community. Paraprofessionals and teacher volunteers ride these buses and it gives them a chance to connect with our students. We have **averaged about 1,000 meals per day** total and have delivered over 30,000 meals via buses. This has allowed us to keep both bus drivers and paras employed, we haven't laid off a single employee during this situation.

We also used our backpack meal program and food pantry to support families who had food insecurity and even some who were in quarantine. Our Community Welfare Specialist and Counselors primarily facilitated this. Once the federal regulations loosened up and allowed us to provide multiple meals on Fridays, the demand for this dropped significantly. Our community is certainly an example of where **loosening those regulations made a big impact**.

We have **several different scenarios we are planning for next year**, obviously none of us knows what September will bring. We will more than likely have most of our **younger students eating sack lunches in their classrooms** to avoid having large groups cycling through a common area and increasing exposure for students and staff. **Older kids** will likely use our available space and social distance, again likely utilizing **grab and go sack lunches** rather than buffet or service lines.

I can't stress how much the **success of our program in these trying times is due to Ruth Pentecost and her crew**. They have had a **very positive "can do" attitude** and I believe have used this challenge to improve their skills and flexibility. They have tried to be creative with what they offer, cater to students' preferences, and not just put out a reimbursable meal. Additionally, everything was **served with a smile** and warm greeting.

Please let me know if you'd like any more details.

Tobin

Lifting Voices event - Feeding the Need: Responding to Hunger in Montana

If you didn't get a chance to attend the live event, a playback is available at www.montanafreepress.org/lifting-voices. Contact information for the panelists and their suggested resources are also listed on this page.

Finally, we've put together a [brief survey \[forms.gle\]](https://forms.gle) and would greatly appreciate your feedback on the event.

Thank you!



Kristin Tessman
 Director of Development and Operations
 Montana Free Press



(406) 207-8727
ktessman@montanafreepress.org

Child Nutrition Programs

Date	Request	Status
3/13/2020	Summer Meals Non-congregate Feeding	Approved
3/20/2020	Meal Times	Nationwide Waiver
3/20/2020	Non-congregate Feeding	Nationwide Waiver
3/20/2020	Afterschool Activity	Nationwide Waiver
3/25/2020	Nationwide Meal Pattern Waiver	State Selected Option
3/25/2020	Nationwide Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver	State Selected Option
3/26/2020	CEP Deadlines Waiver	State Selected Option
3/31/2020	Area Eligibility SFSP/SSO	Approved
3/28/2020	CACFP Sponsor Monitoring Requirements Waiver	State Selected Option
4/1/2020	60 Day Reporting Waiver	State Selected Option
4/21/2020	SFSP/SSO Meal Service Times (Regular Summer)	State Selected Option
4/21/2020	SFSP Offer Versus Serve (Regular Summer)	State Selected Option
4/21/2020	SFSP First Week Site Visits (Regular Summer)	State Selected Option
4/21/2020	SFSP/SSO Closed Enrolled Sites (Regular Summer)	State Selected Option
4/23/2020	Local School Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment	State Selected Option
4/24/2020	Food Service Management Company Contract	State Selected Option
4/27/2020	Extended Unanticipated School Closures	State Selected Option

School Nutrition Programs - NSLP

Claim Data	2020-03	2019-03	March Differences
NSLP Sponsors	258	252	6
NSLP Sites	779	805	-26
Claim Amount	\$ 2,296,032.64	\$ 4,062,562.00	\$ (1,766,529.36)
Meals Served	1,134,187	2,057,266	(923,079)
			0

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Claim Data	2020-03	2019-06 (no SFSP Mar 2019)	
SFSP Sponsors	132	92	40
SFSP Sites	350	270	80
Claim Amount	\$1,347,158	\$877,606	\$ 469,552.00
Meals Served	405,699	0	405,699
			0

Total Programs Claim Amt	\$ 3,643,190.64	\$ 4,062,562.00	\$ (1,296,977.36)
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Program Diff			\$ (948,874.64)
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School Nutrition Programs - NSLP

Claim Data	2020-04	2019-04	April Differences
NSLP Sponsors	66	259	-193
NSLP Sites	160	778	-618
Claim Amount	\$ 214,601.57	\$ 4,375,266.04	\$ (4,160,664.47)
Meals Served	90,248	2,219,937	(2,129,689)
			0

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Claim Data	2020-04	2019-06 (no SFSP Mar 2019)	
SFSP Sponsors		92	-92
SFSP Sites		270	-270
Claim Amount	\$4,771,037	\$877,606	\$ 3,893,430.59
Meals Served	1,452,652	0	1,452,652
			0

	\$ 4,985,638.16	\$ 4,375,266.04	\$ 610,372.12
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Program Diff	\$ 3,625,409.00	\$ 4,062,562.00	\$ (437,153.00)
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