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Office of the Superintendent

Updates in Montana Education

Welcome back to school! The OPI hopes you had a great summer and we look forward to working with you in the 2019-2020 school year. You can learn more about the OPI's divisions and units on our [website](#). Our specialists are here to serve you, your students, and your teachers throughout the year.

Update Your School Contacts and Subscription Preferences

The OPI strives to maintain up-to-date contact lists in order to efficiently and effectively communicate with districts. Please update your school contacts at this [LINK](#).

The OPI is now using GovDelivery for newsletters. You can update your newsletter subscription preferences online at this [LINK](#).

Comment on DPHHS Proposed Rules

Just a reminder that the comment period is open until September 16th on [proposed rules](#) which will have fiscal and administrative impacts on schools. You can send your comments directly to dphhslegal@mt.gov or you can fill out the [OPI's survey](#) which will help inform the comments that we submit to DPHHS.


2020 Census and Civics Education Updates

The decennial national census is just around the corner! The census is very important to Montana schools and the OPI along with other state and local partners will be sharing information with schools throughout the coming year about how you can promote the census in your classrooms and community. Federal education dollars for Montana depend on an accurate census. More information can be found at <https://www.census.gov/schools/>

This is also a great time to promote civics education for your students. The OPI is encouraging all Montana schools to celebrate Constitution Week during September 17-23. The census, along with Montana's social studies content standards ([which are being updated this year](#)), are a great starting point to kick off Constitution Week.

Superintendent's Office August Events

- Meeting with new MSU-B Dean
- Meeting with Education Northwest
- Visit to Shodair Children's Hospital
- Recurring Land Board, Education Advocates, Governor's Office, and State Library Commission meetings

Follow the Office of Public Instruction on social media:  
For more information, contact [Dylan Klapmeier](#), 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**

Accreditation and Educator Preparation

TEAMS Work Sessions and Opening

The Montana Office of Public Instruction is happy to announce we are providing TEAMS Work Sessions once again this fall! During these sessions, participants will bring and enter their own data into the TEAMS database with face-to-face assistance from OPI staff. Check the [TEAMS website](#) for a list of locations and a registration link.

TEAMS will open September 2, 2019 and close on November 1, 2019. If a district changed an authorized representative (AR) or other administration personnel, submit this information to CentralUpdates@mt.gov. A district must complete a [TEAMS Security Form](#), signed by the new AR, and submitted to OPITEAMS@mt.gov for access to TEAMS. The district should indicate which personnel need to be inactivated and add new personnel and assigned roles.

For more information, contact [Patty Muir](#) or [Nathan Miller](#)

CSIP Opening

The CSIP (Continuous School Improvement Plan) will open September 2, 2019. The new CSIP combines four different district/school improvement plans:

- state-level questions for districts and schools
- federal-level plans
- schoolwide Title I plans and;
- special education improvement plans.

The OPI recognizes the use of AdvancED and is taking great strides in moving toward reducing the redundancy of reporting. The new CSIP will feature an upload link to be used by AdvancED users to provide external reports in lieu of answering repetitive questions in the CSIP. However, due to the other types of mandated reporting in the CSIP, AdvancED users will need to access the CSIP to complete those sections that are not included in the external AdvancED reports. (CTE, Foster Care, ELL, Homeless).

If district personnel require access to the CSIP, a [CSIP Security Access Form](#) will need to be completed and submitted to OPI.CSIP@mt.gov

For more information, contact [Patty Muir](#)

Licensed Educator and Professional Staff Deadline

December 1, 2019 is the date that all licensed educators and professional staff must have registered his or her license with the OPI. If not registered by this date, educators are considered not licensed for accreditation purposes. For more information, contact [Patty Muir](#) or [Nathan Miller](#).

Assessment

Transition Plan for Statewide Science Assessments

The OPI is collecting public comment on the proposed transition plan for the statewide science assessments beginning September 1, 2019 through November 1, 2019. The new assessments, Montana Science Assessment (MSA) and Alternative Montana Science Assessment (AMSA), will address the Montana Content Standards for Science. These online assessments will be given in grades 5, 8, and 11, as required by federal and state law. If the OPI's waiver request is approved, the assessments will be field-tested as a census administration in the spring of 2020.

The OPI asks all school leaders to comment on this transition through completing this short [Science Assessment Public Comment survey](#) or email comments to OPIScienceTransition@mt.gov. For more detailed information about Montana's science assessment transition, review the [Montana Science Transition website](#). If you have questions about the new science assessment or about the opportunity to comment, contact the OPI [Assessment Help Desk](#), 844-867-2569.

District and School-Level Assessment Score Reports

School and student-level score reports for the required statewide assessments are available on the assessment specific portals. In addition, schools will receive paper copies of individual student reports (ISR) in late August and early September. Pursuant to state and federal law, ISRs must be sent home to parents/guardians. Schools should have a plan in place to ensure the reports are sent home with students in a timely manner. If you have any questions about score reports, contact the OPI [Assessment Help Desk](#), 844-867-2569.

Career, Technical, and Adult Education

CTE Opportunities for Students and Schools through MCA

The Montana Contractors' Association (MCA) and MCA Education Foundation hope you're ready for the busy year ahead. To help with that, we want you to know how the MCA and its members can assist you and your students in the 2019/20 Academic Year.

- Visit our website to access **resources** to help your students get started in their careers in construction. Go to www.mtagc.org and click on "Let's Build MT" to watch videos, read question and answer sessions with construction professionals, and more.

- Take part in **Construction Week (Oct. 7-11, 2019)**. Our MCA member companies are ready to visit your schools or invite your students to tour construction sites throughout the state. Montana youth need to find out firsthand what construction careers have to offer! Call our office at (406) 442-4162 for help making connections or check out our member directory to find a MCA member in your area: <https://montanacontractorsmtassoc.wliinc24.com/search>
- Apply for a **MCA Construction Trades Awareness Grant**. Annually, the MCA distributes \$1,000 mini grants to help industrial arts instructors at Montana middle/high schools fund events or projects that bring attention in their school and community to careers in construction. Click here to learn more: <https://www.mtagc.org/mca-construction-trades-awareness-grants.html>
- Tell us about your wish list for materials for your industrial arts classroom, and we'll share it with our members on the **MCA Toolbox**. Send your list to Carolyn at carolynn@mtagc.org, and we'll let our people know what you need. Wishes do come true – just ask Chip Rinehart, industrial arts instructor at Hellgate High School!
- Check out our **training opportunities for instructors and students**. We offer everything from NCCER instructor certification, to OSHA 10 training. Contact Keith Ouzts at keith@mtagc.org if you have any questions. Click here to view the full training schedule: <https://www.mtagc.org/training.html>
- Let your students who are interested in careers in construction know about our **MCA Education Foundation Construction Trades Scholarships**. These are intended to help students who will be attending construction trades programs like pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, certificate programs, etc. Funds may be used to pay for items including tuition, textbooks and equipment (welding equipment, carpentry tools, etc.).

The MCA and its member companies look forward to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact [Carolynn Bright](mailto:Carolynn.Bright@mtagc.org), 406-442-4162 if you have any questions or need help connecting with Montana contractors.

Data and Technology

Showcasing Education Success Stories on the OPI's YouTube Channel

The OPI has produced and published videos that showcase some of the innovative and exciting teaching and learning across our state in classrooms and beyond:

- [Join Sarah May on her journey from high school to Surgical Technologist](#) at Benefis Health System. Hear her talk about how her high school CTE classes helped her find a career. Health science programs are highlighted from C.M Russell High School, Great Falls College-MSU, and Benefis Health System.

- [Learn about Darby High School's collaboration with Measure Net](#) to get students working on real-life products. Under the direction of shop teacher, Max Fielder, the project connects school to industry. Hear from students in Mr. Fielder's class explain the benefit and value of hands-on learning and school to community connections.
- [Watch as Helena High culinary students share](#) their experiences learning in the work force as part of their culinary class with Ms. Joan Leik. Local business Chili O'Brien's talks about how their collaboration with Ms. Leik benefits both culinary students and the community.
- [Learn about the Montana DRIVE workshop](#) and see why this program has made our highways and byways more safe for everyone in Montana (and watch a school bus perform evasive maneuvers!)

[Please visit the OPI's Official YouTube Channel](#) to see more videos and subscribe so you can stay up-to-date on the latest videos. We'd also love to hear from you about your ideas for videos and make this a platform for sharing and learning more about the excellent work happening in our schools!

For more information or to submit your ideas, please contact [Michael Sweeney](#), 406-444-4411.

Student Photograph Repository Webpage Now Available

The OPI has published a website with important information about the upcoming student photograph repository to be used by law enforcement to help find missing school-age children. The repository is expected to become operational and available later in the 2019-2020 school year. Participation in the repository is opt-in by parents/guardians and requires specific information be made available to them by districts. Please visit the Electronic Student Photograph Repository Information Website at <http://opi.mt.gov/Photo-Repository>. For more information, contact [Anne Bauer](#), 406-444-0727

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Comprehensive Support and Improvement

The OPI will be hosting a Title 1 School Support Fall 2019 Training which will be held October 7th and 8th at the Delta Hotels Marriott, in Helena, MT. This will be an opportunity for Comprehensive Support and Improvement School Leadership Teams to refine and improve the implementation of the Continuous Improvement Cycle and Evidenced-Based Interventions with fidelity. Registration will begin in September.

The OPI contacts will be reaching out to principals in August to assist comprehensive support and improvement schools in developing Year 2 needs assessment, gap analysis, and an improvement plan. For more information, contact [Julie Murgel](#), 406-444-3172.

Federal Programs

2019-2020 E-Grant Applications

Districts can now apply for 2019-20 Title I, II, III, IV, and V funds in the Consolidated Application. However, applications cannot be submitted at this time. Below are some important dates to remember:

- September 1-Last day to create an amendment for funds received during SY2018-19 without approval from Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent
- September 15-Last day to Open/Create an E-Grant Application for SY2019-20 without approval from Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent
- October 31-Districts must have a submitted and approved E-Grant Application.

For more information, contact [Jack O'Connor](#), 406-444-3083

Finance

State Paid Tuition and FP-15's

Please submit your state paid tuition and FP-15 (day treatment) claims for the SY 2018-19. These claims must be submitted and approved prior to December 31, 2019. Once your claims are entered in MAEFAIRS, the district must verify the claim and number of days enrolled. Claims will be paid in the month after they are verified and submitted through MAEFAIRS. For more information, contact [Nicole Thuotte](#), 406-444-4524

Fall Student Count for ANB

The Fall Student Count for ANB in MAEFAIRS is October 7, 2019. NEW THIS YEAR: Districts must import and submit no earlier than the day after the count (October 8) to allow AIM staff the opportunity to verify absences. For more information or questions, contact [Nica Merala](#), 406-444-4401.

Health Enhancement and Safety

The School Nutrition Program's New Direct Certification Application (DCA) is open for the 2019-2020 School Year

You can find the new DCA on the [School Nutrition website](#). If you previously bookmarked or saved DCA to your favorites, please update saved links using the [new URL](#). School Nutrition Programs will cover the new DCA system during our fall trainings. Contact [Alie Wolf](#), 406-444-4413 for more information.

The OPI received a Two-Year, \$100,000 Farm to School Grant from the USDA

The OPI, along with Montana Team Nutrition Program at MSU, and other project partners will leverage building momentum and resources at a key time to expand farm to school support into more rural and remote communities, including native communities through the three project goals. First, the team will increase the number of schools participating in farm to school by expanding capacity for technical assistance and training using a regional farm to school coach model. Second, by leveraging the regional model and partnerships, the team will facilitate information sharing, networking, and training opportunities by hosting four regional Montana farm to school Showcase events. Third, project partners will host a statewide Montana farm to school summit. Contact [Aubree Roth](#), 406-994-5996 for more information.

The OPI received a three-year \$1,549,279 Administrative Review and Training Grant from the USDA

The OPI has made great strides to address the integrity of the school breakfast and lunch programs by upgrading, integrating, and enhancing a comprehensive child nutrition system platform. Subsequently, in seeking to continuously improve, the OPI has identified further ways to proactively intervene in non-compliant program operations and data entry, as well as to analyze data at the OPI to identify areas of future improvement. The grant projects will allow the OPI to enhance and increase utilization of the child nutrition program and direct certification application by strengthening the integrity focus of the existing systems. Contact [Christine Emerson](#), 406-444-2502 for more information.

Montana Teen Driver Safety Day- October 15, 2019

Montana Teen Driver Safety Day is the third Tuesday in October during National Teen Driver Safety Week. Proclaimed by the Montana State Legislature in 2009, its mission is to bring teens, community leaders, educators, and parents together to prevent young driver crashes, the leading cause of death for teens. Schools can celebrate safe teen driving by showing videos during lunch breaks, inviting a speaker to talk to teens, and spreading positive messages via social media, reader boards, newsletters, and bulletin boards. Visit <http://opi.mt.gov/DriverEd> for more ideas on celebrating Montana Teen Driver Safety Day. For more information, contact [Patti Borneman](#), 406-444-4432.

Download the Traffic Education Reimbursement Report

Are you wondering if your school district received your traffic education reimbursement for the previous school year? Reports showing the 2019 reimbursement by county and school district are posted on the OPI's Driver Education [Forms & Reports](#) page. For more information, contact [Patti Borneman](#), 406-444-4432.

Indian Education

Montana American Indian Heritage Day

The 2009 Montana Legislature declared the last Friday of each September as [Montana American Indian Heritage Day](#). Visit the OPI's [website](#) to find resources for promoting Montana's American Indian heritage on September 27th.

Essential Understandings Posters

Posters have been sent out to school librarians for the updated *Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians*. The Essential Understandings are the key concepts Montana tribes would like all students to know about them. If you or others in your school would like a copy, please contact [Joan Franke](#), 406-444-3694.

Indigenous History Card Games

The Indian Education Division has several sets of these card games developed by Native Teaching Aids.

- * The Blackfeet Nation
- * Indigenous Rights
- * Laws and Treaties
- * The Little Shell
- * Montana Native History
- * The Salish and Pend d'Oreille People

If you would like to borrow one or more, please contact [Joan Franke](#), 406-444-3694.