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Office of the Superintendent

Updates in Montana Education

The Office of Public Instruction thanks Montana teachers and school leaders for your service to students during the 2018-2019 school year! We hope that you are having an enjoyable summer and we look forward to working with you again in the 2019-2020 school year. OPI staff are here to assist during the summer months as well.

New Transformational Learning Opportunities:

House Bill 351 was signed into law on May 9, 2019, amending section MCA [20-9-116](#) to revise education laws to support transformational learning. Transformational Learning is defined as a flexible system of pupil-centered learning that is designed to meet the Montana Constitutional mandate of "fully develop[ing] the educational potential of each person."

The bill establishes a flexible system that includes:

- customized learning to address each pupil's strengths, needs and interests;
- continued focus on each pupil's proficiency over content; and
- actively engaging each pupil in determining what, how, when and where learning occurs.

Check out the OPI's new transformational learning [webpage](#) to learn more.

Superintendent's Office July Events

- ACT Data Summit
- Meeting with State Farm reps to discuss support for driver's education
- Meeting with the Governor's new Education Policy Advisor
- DPHHS public hearing on proposed rule changes which impact schools
- Meeting with the Director of Environmental Quality regarding DPHHS rules
- Meeting with the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education regarding ACT partnership
- Montana School Safety Advisory Committee meeting
- Meeting with Education Northwest for annual planning
- Meeting with new Dean of Education at the University of Montana
- Meeting with the new CEO of Montana Special Olympics
- Meeting with the new Dean of Education at MSU-B
- Leadership conference with the Council of Chief State School Officers
- Recurring Land Board, Education Advocates, Board of Public Education, and OPI Leadership 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](#)

Digital Content Providers Registered in Montana Annual Reporting

ARM 10.55.907(5)—Distance, Online, and Technology Delivered Learning:

“(5) Digital content providers serving Montana schools accredited by the Board of Public Education shall:

- (a) annually, by the first Monday in August, register with the Office of Public Instruction;**
- (b) annually, by the first Monday in June, identify the Montana school districts served in the current school year by the digital content provider, including the courses and student enrollments for each school district served; and
- (c) document the professional qualifications, including Montana teacher licensure and endorsement, of their teachers of distance, online, and technology-delivered programs and/or courses by providing names and credentials of other licensing entities, when not licensed and endorsed in Montana.”

Email the report to [Patty Muir](#). For more information, contact [Patty Muir](#).

Content Standards and Instruction

OPI Learning Opportunities Portal

Visit the [Learning Opportunities Portal website](#) to find out about great 2019 summer conferences, classes, workshops, and courses. The Portal is just one of the ways the OPI informs educators about upcoming professional learning opportunities in our state.

Learning Hub

If you haven't already, [check out](#) what more than 11,000 Montana educators have experienced! Our Hub team is always adding and updating our self-paced and facilitated courses. Please check the [Learning Hub homepage](#) for a complete [listing](#) and [catalog](#). Summer is a perfect time to take a self-paced course!

3 Big Ideas – New Format, Same Great Info!

In August, the 3 Big Ideas newsletter will have a new look. If you would like to suggest a topic for the 2019-20 school year, please contact [Marjorie O'Rourke](#), our newsletter editor.

For more information on these topics, contact OPICSI@mt.gov.

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 happening 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 safer for everyone in Montana (and watch a school bus perform evasive maneuvers!)

[Please visit the OPI's Official You Tube 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 that is happening in our schools!

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

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 by this date.

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

Health Enhancement and Safety

Traffic Education

Traffic Education Reimbursement \$79.71 per student

Many thanks to the 133 school districts that completed traffic education programs last school year and submitted year-end reports for reimbursement. The 2019 Traffic Education reimbursement will be electronically deposited in district accounts managed by county treasurers in early August. The OPI will distribute funds to school districts that offered state-approved Traffic Education programs. This annual reimbursement is made possible by a percentage of driver license fees collected by the Department of Justice, Motor Vehicle Division.

Reports showing the 2019 reimbursement by county and school district will be posted on the OPI's Driver Education Forms & Reports page.

- Deposit into Fund 18 Traffic Education Fund
- Revenue Code 3260 - State Driver Education Reimbursement

Driver Education reimbursement fluctuates from year to year depending upon the number of driver licenses, renewals and other dynamic variables. The amount of FY2019 reimbursement compared to previous years reflects the number students and declining driver license sales which is the source of funding for the state special revenue Traffic Education account.

For more information, contact [Fran Penner-Ray](#), 406-444-4396

Coordinated School Health

Trauma-Informed Care and Practice 3-Part Webinar Series

Dr. Tami DeCoteau, a national expert on trauma-informed care, offers insight to providers and educators interested in gaining a deeper understanding of trauma, including content on historical trauma and adverse childhood experiences. This webinar series is free of charge. Please register [here](#).

For more information, contact [Holly Mook](#), 406-444-0773.

Licensure

Amended ARM's Provide 1-Year Grace on Praxis and Waiver

On July 11th, the Board of Public Education approved licensure amendments to the Class 1, Class 2 and Class 5 Administrative Rules, allowing for flexibility regarding the Praxis test requirement. The amendments to ARM 10.57.411, ARM 10.57.410 and ARM 10.57.424 (Class 1, Class 2 and Class 5, respectively) provide waiver of the Praxis test for those who hold current certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in an area approved for endorsement in Montana, and apply for endorsement in the same area. This change was made to acknowledge the rigors of obtaining national board certification and to further recognize the accolades this certification brings to the profession of teaching.

Administrative Rule 10.57.424 Class 5 Provisional License had the biggest changes. A new **Class 5A** provisional license was created. This 5A provisional license allows those applicants who meet all licensure requirements other than the required Praxis to receive the Class 5A, which is valid for **one year**. The intent is to ease the licensure stress and pressure for those individuals applying for their initial Montana educator license by providing one year (July 1 through June 30) to complete the required Praxis. Additionally, it better serves the school districts as they will be able to receive the quality educator pay for these individuals.

To view the full amendment changes, [click here](#).

Emergency Authorization of Employment

Applications for Emergency Authorization of Employment may be submitted by school district administrators beginning August 1st. This employment option is available to school districts that have been diligently attempting to fill vacant positions with licensed educators, but have not been able to do so. The requirements are provided in MCA 20-4-111 and guidelines are found in ARM 10.57.107, both of which are included with the application which is located under **Educator Licensure, [Useful Resources](#), Montana School Administrator's Emergency Authorization Application**.

Other Items

Renewals: There is a **grace period through August 31st** for those renewing their licenses.

There are a multitude of free, online, quality resources available at the [OPI Learning Hub](#). Click [here](#) to renew or find additional renewal resources.

Considering Employing a Foreign National: If you are considering employing a foreign national, click [here](#) for necessary information.

Reminder: Find more helpful information on our [Educator Licensure](#) home page. Licensure forms may be found by accessing the [Educator Licensure](#) home page, selecting Useful Resources and then selecting OPI Licensure Forms.

For more information, contact [Kristine Thatcher](#), 406-444-2580

Student Support Services

Dyslexia Resources

[SB 140 Dyslexia Screening and Intervention Act](#) was signed by Gov. Bullock on May 1, 2019. Are you familiar with the bill? What have you been doing to prepare for students when they arrive in the fall?

At the Office of Public Instruction, we are working on providing resource to assist students, parents, educators and districts as we prepare to navigate the new school year. Please check out the [OPI Dyslexia site](#).

For more information, contact [Marla Swanby](#), 406-444-0044