



Fall 2014 Newsletter

Title I – Part D – Neglected and Delinquent Program

To: ARs and Administrators

Please forward this email to all Enrollment Clerks, School Counselors, Social Workers, or other school staff or community members supporting children in foster care or involved in the juvenile justice system.

In our first issue of the N&D newsletter, the OPI would like to draw your attention to the program's new [webpage](#). This newly revamped page contains general program information, and a host of links and resources for schools and families working with children who have been in Montana's foster care system or who have come in contact with the juvenile justice system. We encourage you to take a look at the **"Scholarships and Financial Aid"** tab if you are working with high school students. We also have some helpful links on the **"Department of Corrections Families"** tab for those of you working with children of incarcerated parents.



The National Evaluation and Technical Assistance Center for the Education of Children and Youth who are Neglected, Delinquent or At-Risk (NDTAC) also has a number of great resources on their [webpage](#). You can find more information on a variety of topics, including [transition services](#), [family engagement](#), and [coordination](#) with other services and agencies.

Know about other helpful links and resources that are not on our page? Please send them to us at hdenny@mt.gov.

Title I D Program Changes and Updates

Last year's October program participation count was a great success! The OPI offered a technical assistance call to all of the districts currently participating in the program and invited several other partners to attend. This resulted in a more accurate count and an increase in the number of students who were identified as living in a group home or detention facility. Those increases translated directly into federal program dollars.



The result of this increase is that the N&D program has been able to offer additional grants to other eligible districts in the state. New grantees this year are Billings, Ronan, Bozeman, and Hamilton. Ronan has received a matching grant from the CSKT Tribal Government to support their students. Bozeman will be training teachers on the effects of trauma on learning and behavior, and they hope to impact many students with this new knowledge. Billings and Hamilton are currently developing their programs.

If there is a group home or juvenile detention center in your community that provides around-the-clock care to delinquent children you may be eligible for this grant. Contact Heather Denny, State Coordinator for Neglected & Delinquent Education, if you are interested in learning more about the October count and how to apply for the 15-16 grant cycle.

End-of-Year Program Report – Title I D (Delinquent Youth)

All program participants from the 2013-14 school year must complete and submit the spreadsheet that was emailed to you for data collection. This spreadsheet provides cumulative data to the OPI that must be submitted to the US Department of Education (USED) as part of the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR). All long-term students, those who were enrolled in your district for 90+ days, must have a pre and post-test for Reading and Math. Districts may use any of the diagnostic tests currently used in their schools to measure student achievement in these subjects. Pre-tests should be administered to all delinquent youth when they enter the facility or enroll in their local school. Post-tests may occur at re-determined intervals throughout the school year or may be given prior to a student leaving a facility. The intent of the testing is to show student growth over time as a result of participating in a grant-funded program.

October Fall Count

The October Fall Count for Neglected & Delinquent facilities is due mid-December. This count collects data on the number of children who spent at least one night in an eligible “neglected,” “delinquent,” or correctional facility during a 30-day period. One of those 30 days must fall within the month of October. Although school districts



are not responsible for collecting this data, we recommend that you contact your local facilities to ensure that they have properly completed and submitted the electronic survey to the OPI. Facilities may count any child who spends at least one 24-hour period during the larger 30-day period in the facility. Children who leave the facility and then re-enter on a separate admission can be counted for each individual admission.

All facilities will receive an email during the week of November 17th with a link to the survey. Please remind your local facilities that all Fall Count Surveys must be submitted to the OPI by December 15th. If

you are concerned that your local facility did not receive or submit the survey please contact Shawna Pieske at spieske@mt.gov or 406-444-5660.

College Application Week – November 3-7

This week is College Application Week in Montana. All Montana colleges and universities will waive or defer their application fees this week. All high school seniors should be encouraged to participate in this opportunity. Last year, more than 1,700 students took advantage of this opportunity and completed their college applications during this week.

Child Sex Trafficking by Dana Toole, Montana Children’s Justice Bureau, Bureau Chief

The notion that there are children in Montana being sold for sex is tough even for veteran law enforcement and child welfare professionals, but Child Sex Trafficking (CST) is here and it is directly tied to the fact that there are Montanans who buy children for sex. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is another term for CST and it means a person under the age of 18 who is sold for sex. In the United States the average age of a child who enters the trafficking “life” or “the game” is 12, and both boys and girls are trafficked, these children are citizens of the U.S. and there are as many as 100,000 nationwide. Young people who have history of abuse or trauma, an unstable home, a history of foster care placement, or who live in severe poverty are all at increased risk for becoming a CST victim. Many are in the juvenile justice system as well.



In interviews with CST victims, also called survivors, about 25% disclose early child-hood sexual abuse that started prior to their being trafficked. Who is doing the selling? CST is a big, very big, business, and estimated 32 billion dollars annually world-wide. Each child may “earn” \$150,000 or more for their ‘pimp’ in the time period they can be marketed as a child for sex. Pimps may be individuals with just a few minors to sell for sex, or they may be connected as a ‘franchise’ to a larger operation including organized crime both in the U.S. and internationally. Children are marketed primarily on the internet, but there are also other venues where children can be bought for sex. There are quite a few myths about the children being sold, including that they are ‘child prostitutes’ who have chosen the sex trade for their work. What do we do about it? First, we learn how to identify it, as CST is often described as ‘hiding in plain sight’ and the victims rarely if ever are willing to disclose or ask for help. In 2014 both the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) released screening tools to help professionals identify young people who are ‘in the game’ and who are high risk for being trafficked. Contact the Children’s Justice Bureau for additional information or visit www.doj.mt.gov. (Article reprinted with permission of Dana Toole.)

State Title I Conference

At the 2015 State Title I Conference, the OPI will be offering a strand of workshops for any school working with children who may be classified as neglected, delinquent, or at-risk. Presenters from Child and Family Services will explain to educators what happens when a call comes in to their center about possible neglect or abuse. The principal from the education program at Montana State Prison will offer practical tips for ending the school-to-prison pipeline. Youth Dynamics will help classroom teachers deal with challenging behaviors. And Job Corps will be on hand to explain how their program helps your students complete their education and gain valuable job skills in a non-traditional setting. Registration

for the conference will open on November 3, 2014. Keep watching the Title I Conference [webpage](#) for more details and the link to register. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the needs of neglected, delinquent, or at-risk youth please contact the OPI's State Coordinator for Neglected and Delinquent Education, Heather Denny, at 406-444-2036 or hdenny@mt.gov, or the N&D Program Assistant, Shawna Pieske, at 406-444-5660 or spieske@mt.gov, for more information.

