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August 26, 2014

To: Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children
From: Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff
Subject: State Council Plans for the 2014-15 School Year

The following is a brief description of the plans and activities for the Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children for the 2014-2015 school year. Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau does not expect to convene the council again until the spring of 2015. Members of the council will be consulted on the projects that are listed below, in particular, the co-sponsorship of Purple Up! Day and the materials that will be developed for parents and school personnel.

1. Presentation to the Fall Conference of the Montana Association of School Superintendents

Great Falls Superintendent Tammy Lacey will offer a session on THE MILITARY COMPACT AND HOW IT AFFECTS STUDENTS AND DISTRICTS ACROSS MONTANA. She will be sharing information about the goals of the Interstate Compact Commission to remove barriers to educational success imposed on children of military families because of frequent moves and deployment of their parents. She will share information about the compact's and the state council's work to facilitate the enrollment, placement, eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities, and on-time graduation of children from military families.

2. Implementation of an indicator for Military-Connected Children in the Statewide Student information System

The Military Connected Status field has been added to the Achievement in Montana (AIM) system. The field is used to indicate that a student is a dependent of a member of the U.S. military, active duty national guard, active duty reserve force of the US military, or transitioning out of active duty to National Guard or Reserve. The Enrollment section of AIM system has also been amended to indicate if a student transferring into or out of the district is military-connected. These new fields have been added to the AIM system for the 2014-2015 school year.

3. Development of an information sheet for the Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

OPI will develop a 1-2 page information sheet for use by school districts and parents of military children. The document will assist parents in navigating the system if they come to an impasse for a child in terms of enrollment, placement, eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities, and graduation. It will highlight the work of the Montana Council and provide contact information for Montana's Compact Commissioner, Military Family Education Liaison, the Office of Public Instruction, and members of the Montana Council. The information sheet will be

posted online on the OPI website at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Media_Center/Index.html?gpm=1_7. OPI plans to have the information sheet completed by the end of October 2014.

OPI will also look for opportunities to educate school administrators, counselors and athletic directors on the challenges facing military-connected students and their families and facilitating the participation of students in extracurricular athletics and activities. OPI will also promote educational opportunities for military children through its Graduation Matters Montana initiative.

4. Expansion of web presence of materials for military families, school leaders and policy makers

The Office of Public Instruction has designated an area of the OPI website for posting information about the activities of the Montana Council on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. State Council meeting agendas, meeting minutes, contact information, the council's annual report, and other state and national resources are posted at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Media_Center/Index.html?gpm=1_7. Council members as well as the general public can find council resources on this website.

5. Sponsorship of PURPLE UP! Day

State council members have suggested that the council become a co-sponsor with the Montana National Guard of Purple Up! Day, which commemorates military families in our communities. Purple Up! Day occurs in mid-April each year in conjunction with April being the month of the Military Child. People are asked to wear purple to show their support and gratitude to military children.