

## Accreditation, Curriculum, and Instruction

The Accreditation Division supports three major directives: 1) reviewing 828 school programs and course offerings to ensure compliance with accreditation standards adopted by the Board of Public Education; 2) providing individual, regional, and statewide professional learning opportunities, classroom resources and model curriculum for use by local districts; and 3) facilitating use of local student achievement data by educators to plan, implement, and evaluate student progress toward meeting academic content standards.

The Accreditation Division:

- Delivered technical assistance to more than 5,000 educators, on gifted and talented programs, standards-based education, understanding content standards as revised for science, information literacy-library, technology, mathematics, communication arts, integrating technology into the curriculum and common core state standards.
- Developed the Full-Time Kindergarten Model Curriculum Guide and provided technical assistance to 200 kindergarten teachers on using the guide in their classrooms.
- Completed a Montana Model Curriculum Development Guide for Science education.
- Developed and disseminated an interactive DVD and companion how-to guide to implement the revised Science standards. Also trained 50 educators to provide regional professional development using OPI created resources.
- Provided workshops on the revised science standards reaching 163 districts, 309 schools, 187 administrators, and 2,909 teachers.
- Provided 10 workshops, individual assistance to 37 districts, five webinar presentations, four face-to-face presentations and telephone assistance to help school personnel analyze local data to plan, implement and evaluate a continuous school improvement plan.
- Reached 793 parents and educators through technical assistance, professional development workshops and presentations on gifted and talented education.
- Convened a 35 member Task Force to revise a portion of the Board of Public Education's Accreditation Standards. In the next Biennium, the Superintendent of Public Instruction will recommend such revisions to the Board of Public Education. These recommended amendments provide local districts opportunity for flexibility and innovation, while ensuring quality education and public accountability.
- Facilitates four on-site reviews at Montana's postsecondary educator programs.
- Provides technical assistance to educators in completing the annual school data reports through five regional face-to-face workshops and ongoing webinars.
- Is beginning to develop and disseminate guides for Information Literacy-Library, Technology, Mathematics, and Communication Arts.
- Is conducting an alignment study to determine gaps between National Common Core Standards and Montana's current standards. The Common Core Standards Initiative ([www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)) was led by the National Governor's Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, working with Achieve, ACT and the College Board, among other education groups. The state Superintendent will make a recommendation concerning the potential adoption of the Common Core State Standards to the Montana Board of Public Education in May 2011.