

Office of the State Superintendent

The Office of the State Superintendent provides leadership for Montana's K-12 public education system that includes 834 public schools, 141,807 students, and 12,733 certified educators and licensed professionals and management of 165 full-time OPI employees to achieve the Superintendent's statutory duties. It is the mission of the agency to provide vision, advocacy, support and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction and her staff:

- Focus agency policy, planning and procedures to build a quality education system in Montana.
- Identify and promote key legislative initiatives targeted at achieving adequate school funding, recruiting and retaining quality educators, raising student achievement and supporting classroom instruction.
- Fulfill fiduciary responsibilities to the school children of Montana by maximizing revenue from school trust lands while balancing long-term value and benefits.
- Administer the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.
- Build partnerships to promote quality education with the Governor's Office, Higher Education, Legislature, education partners, MT State Library, Workforce Investment Board, private businesses and state and national education coalitions.
- Communicate information about public education and current educational issues to parents, the public, schools, businesses, state, local and tribal governments, the Legislature and the news media.
- Promote accountability by overseeing the annual statewide testing of MT students and analyze and report results to the Board of Public Education, schools and the public.
- Promote the development of valid and reliable education information systems improving information exchange among schools, the OPI, policy makers and the public.
- Make recommendations to the Board of Public Education in the areas of academic standards, school safety, students with special needs, and educator qualifications. Support the Board with resources, services and research.
- Manage the human resource functions of the Office of Public Instruction.
- Recognize educator excellence by distributing stipends to teachers who achieve certification from the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.