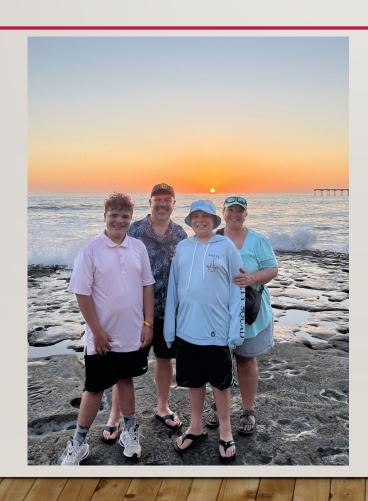


MY BACKGROUND



- Grew up near Troy, MT
- Started my professional career teaching in Hays, MT 2000
- Taught in Heart Butte, MT 2001-2004
- Worked in federal college access programs for 12 years
- OPI IEFA Director Dec. 2018-March 2024
- Took over this role on March 2024

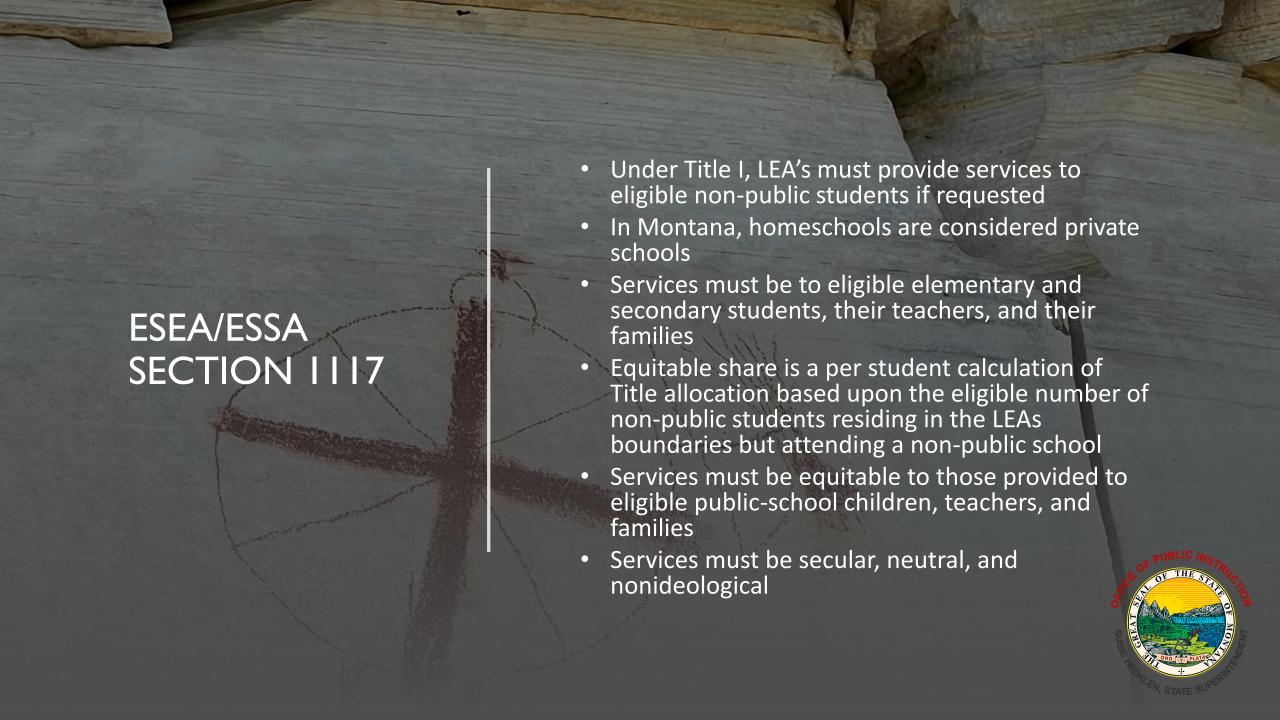




PRIVATE SCHOOL OMBUDSMAN

- ■The Ombudsman is a requirement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- ■Role is to work on behalf of the private schools to make sure that high-quality services are provided
- Assists private schools if they are not being treated fairly





WHAT IS TITLE !?

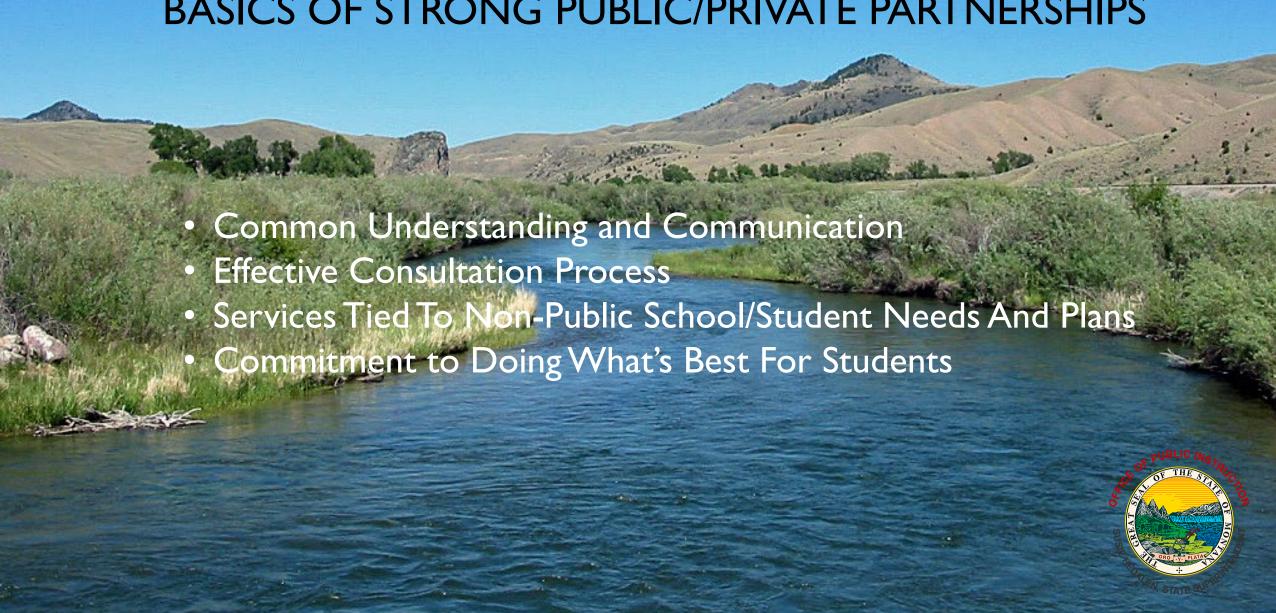
- Title I is the largest, federally funded educational program developed under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
- Present law is called the Every Student Succeeds Act-ESSA
- Established to give supplemental educational services to at-risk students for them to catch up to their peers
- All services must be in addition to regular classroom instruction
- All services, materials, professional development, etc. must be in addition to, not in replacement of the regular educational program both in program and fiscal components. "Supplement not supplant"



HOW DO SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN TITLE PROGRAMS?

- Students must reside in a participating public school attendance area
- Student's non-public school must be registered with their County Superintendent of Schools and indicate interest in receiving federal program services
- Must meet eligibility the requirements to be served under Title I
- LEA must work with private school to determine eligibility
- Students must show academic deficiency & have a plan of improvement





ANNUAL TIMELINE

March-April: Participation Agreements and Non-Public Database Updates



May-July: Consultation
Period.
Affirmation of Consultation
and Interlocal Agreements
Due July 31st

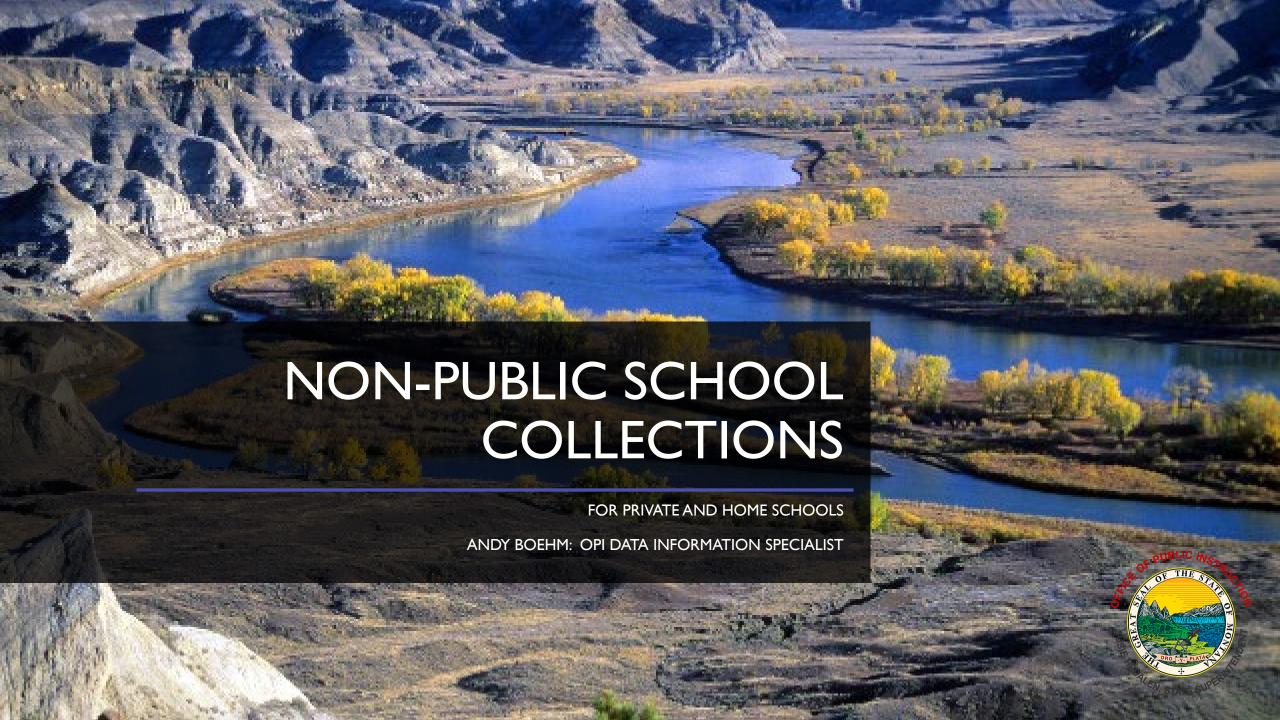


July-August: Public Schools Report # of Private School Students Served



October: Private &
Homeschools Report
Student Numbers to County
Supt. for OPI Non-Public
Database





LETTER TO THE AR FROM TITLE I DIRECTOR

Susie Hedalen, Superintende PO Box 202501 Helena, MT 59620-2501



Phone: 406.444.5643 In-State Toll-free: 1.888.231.9393 opi.mt.gov

March 2025

To: Authorized Representatives

From: Zach Hawkins Title I Director/Private School Ombudsman

Re: 2025-26 Private School Participation in Federal Programs.

Each spring, the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) emails a letter and link to a packet to each Montana school district informing them of the requirement to notify all private and nonpublic schools within their district boundaries of their right to receive an equitable share amount and have eligible students served with public Title program funds. Please keep in mind that in Montana, homeschools are also considered eligible non-public schools. Also, in some cases, students who reside within a public school district may attend a non-public school outside of the district boundaries can be eligible for Title services through the LEA of their residence. In such cases, the LEA would also need to notify the non-public school of attendance of their eligibility.

Every October, county superintendents are required to report all registered private and home schools to the OPI. The OPI then gathers the data and informs the public school district of the eligible entities they must contact.

As of October 2018, the OPI began using on online system which allows county superintendents to enter all the nonpublic schools electronically. The new online application is also open to the public-school districts for use. The OPI no longer sends out paper forms and spreadsheets to the districts, and consequently, districts no longer submit paper forms to the OPI.

The link to the new system is:

https://apps.opi.mt.gov/nonpublicschool/frmLogin.aspx.

Here are the directions to input data into the system:

- Click on the Data entry tab.
- 2. Click on the Fall Federal Participation Data (District) tab.
- 3. Update by selecting the private/home school from the dropdown menu.
- 4. Select which federal programs the school wants to participate in.



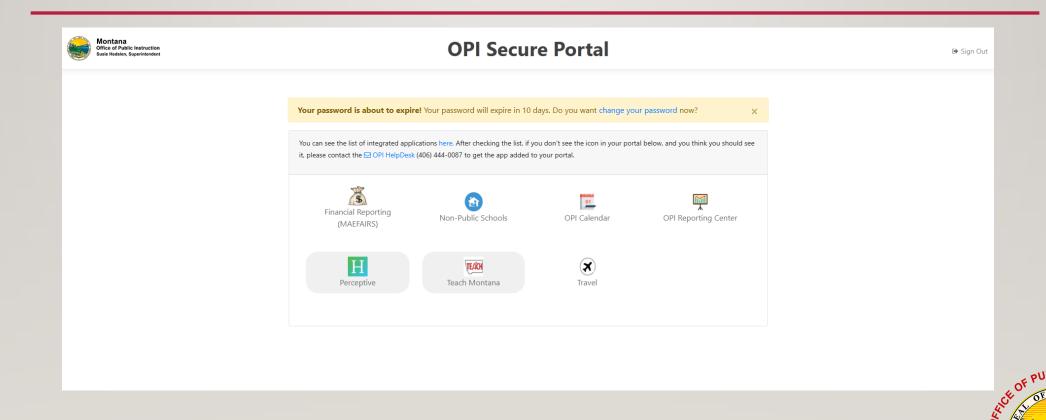
CLICK

• https://apps.opi.mt.gov/nonpublics chool/frmLogin.aspx

These screenshots may vary from yours



LOGIN WITH ACCOUNT





Reset your password the first time you log in

USERNAME/PASSWORD



Anytime you forget/expire



Passwords expire after 60 days



FINDING NON-PUBLICS IN MY DISTRICT



| Home | Data Entry | Reports Administration Logout | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | CARES Participation Report | | | | | | | |
| | | Counties that do not have users assigned | | | | | | | |
| | | Districts that do not have users assigned | | | | | | | |
| | Print Repor | Enrollment Spreadsheet | | | | | | | |
| | T Till Repor | Fall Enrollment Template | | | | | | | |
| State | Fy: 2025 | Federal Program Participation Spreadsh | | | | | | | |
| | 2026 | Nonparticipation Counts by Le for all years | | | | | | | |
| | 2025 | Nonpublic Schools County View | | | | | | | |
| | 2024 | Nonpublic Schools District View | | | | | | | |
| | 2023 | Nonpublic Schools Reporting Enrollment | | | | | | | |
| | | Schools that do not want literature | | | | | | | |
| | | Security Report | | | | | | | |
| | | Title IA Counts by Grade | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

Title IA Counts by LE

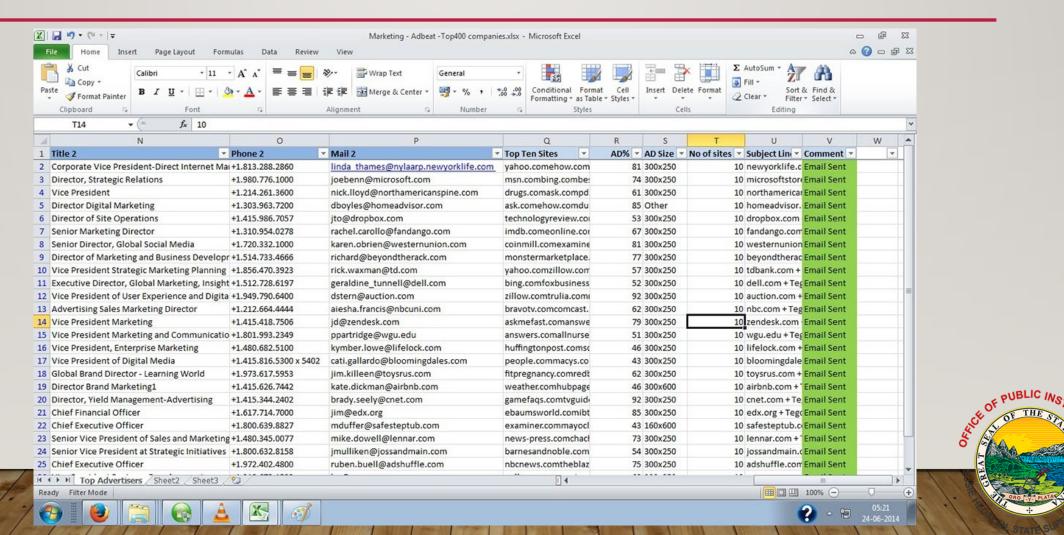
SELECT 2025 SELECT ENROLLMENT SPREADSHEET UNDER REPORTS

Nonpublic School Enrollment View

ADDRESSES OF SCHOOLS

| Contact Address | Contact City | Contact State | Contact Zip |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| PO BOX 150 | Busby | MT | 59016 |
| PO Box 257 | St Xavier | MT | 59075 |
| PO BOX 150 | Busby | MT | 59016 |
| 2930 Flood Rd | Great Falls | MT | 59405 |
| 2210 5th Ave N | Great Falls | MT | 59401 |

ENTERING DATA FOR PARTICIPATING NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS



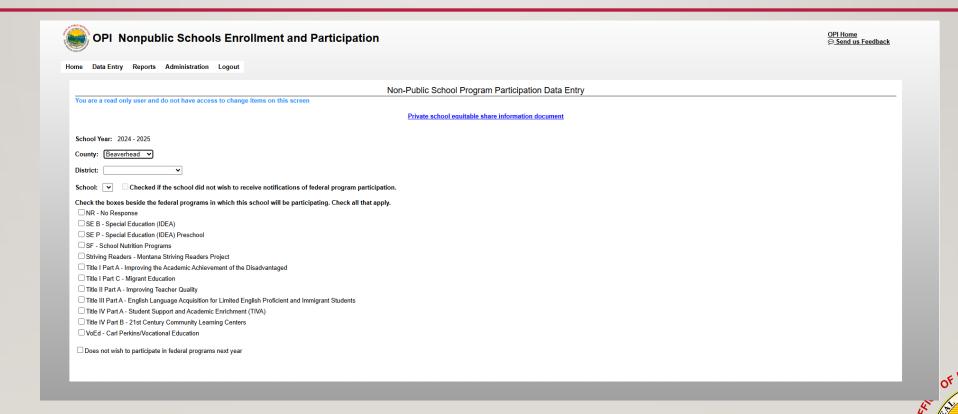
SELECT DATA ENTRY

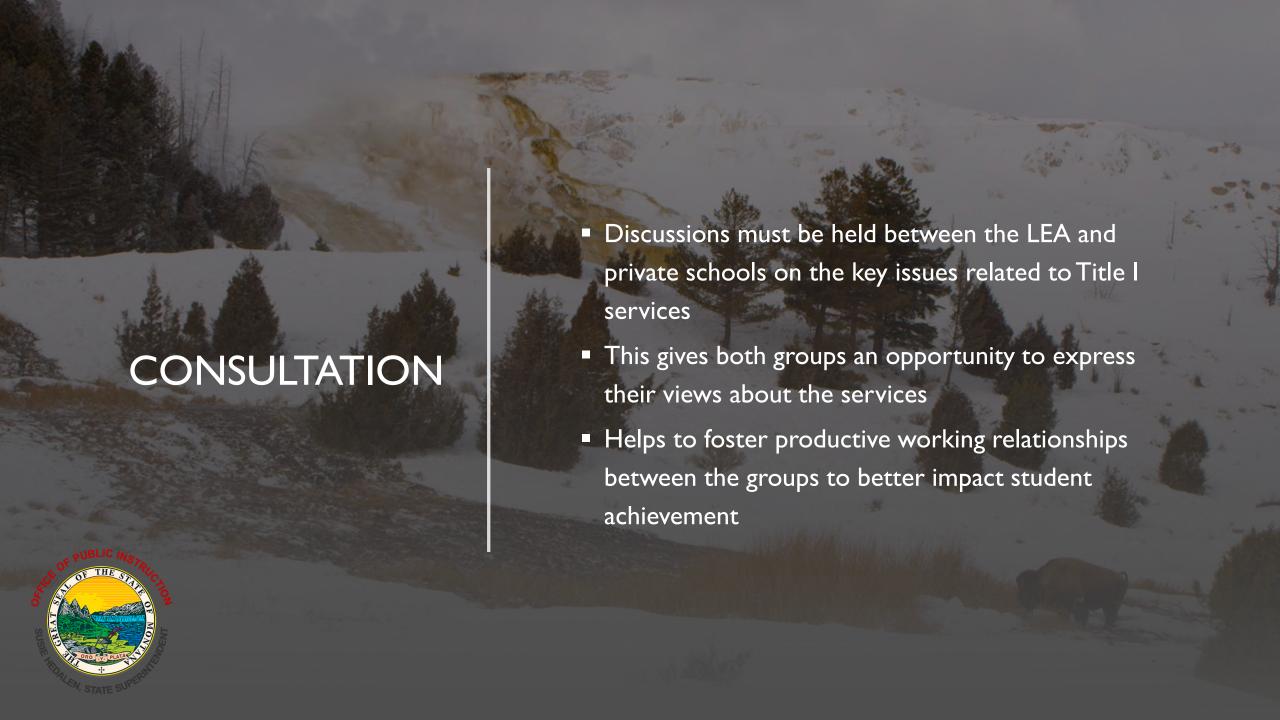
- Fall School Data (Co Supt)
- October Count Day

- Spring Federal Participation Data (District)
- March



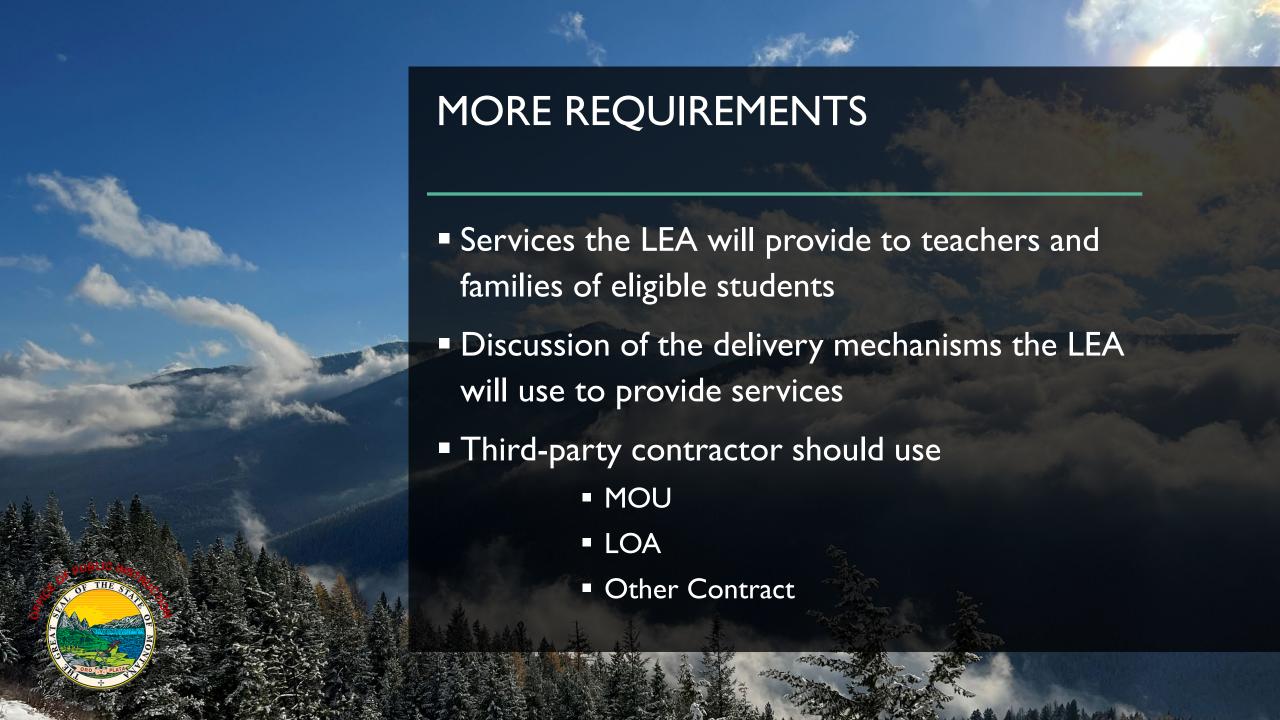
SELECT SCHOOL AND PROGRAMS





CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

- Ways the LEA will identify eligible students
- Services to be provided
- How and when the LEA will make decisions about the delivery of services
- How, where, and by whom the LEA will provide services
- The method and sources of data the LEA will use to identify eligible students





STEPS IN THE PLAN

- Decide on the instructional plan based upon the Needs Assessment.
- Discuss what supplies will be needed by the public school and private to run the program (Third-party provider)
- What types of professional development will be needed
- How, when, and what types of assessments will be used to determine progress
- Exiting criteria
- Program evaluation



PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

- Program should be assessed for effectiveness at the end of the year
- Students should be assessed
 before program entry, during the
 program, and at the end of the year
- Next steps should be discussed with the private school
- Prepare for the next year



ALLOCATING FUNDS

- There are five main sources to determine poverty data:
 - Census count
 - Free and reduced lunch
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Medicaid assistance
 - Proportionality
 - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)
- These processes may be difficult in a private school, but it can be done every two years



EQUITABLE SHARE SET ASIDES

- The equitable share is now determined before district level set asides
- This increases the funds available to the private schools
- All funds must be expended in the year they were allocated-there is no more carryover of equitable share dollars unless there was some unforeseen situation



USES OF FUNDS



SUSPENIEN, STATE SUPPERIENT

- Equitable services funds must be primarily for a Title I program
- May not just be for professional development and supplies
- General rule of thumb-2/3s of the funds should be for instructional interventions and supports; the remainder for PD and supplies
- If there is no educational program, then there is no need for PD and supplies to support it.
- The public school owns all instructional materials and supplies!

E-GRANTS TARGETING STEP I

| Attendance Center | Select Category | Grade Span | Feeder Pattern Used | CEP | Grandfather | Homeless Enrollment | Public Enrollment | *Public # Low Income | Direct Cert Enrollment | Direct Cert Number | Non-Public Enrollment | Non-Public # Low Income |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 0141 - Lewis & Clark School | Elementary | PK- | | | | 11 | 326 | 195 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 0142 - Lincoln School | Elementary | PK- | | | | 14 | 384 | 218 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 0143 - Longfellow School | Elementary | PK- | | V | | 43 | 316 | 312 | 316 | 290 | 2 | 2 |
| 0146 - Meadow Lark School | Elementary | PK- | | | | 2 | 531 | 94 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| 0147 - Morningside School | Elementary | PK- | | | | 9 | 204 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0148 - Riverview School | Elementary | PK- | | | | 7 | 449 | 183 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| 0151 - Sunnyside School | Elementary | PK- | | V | | 24 | 406 | 337 | 406 | 223 | 3 | 2 |



TARGETED ASSISTANCE SERVICES

- Title I services to private school students must be set up like a TAS program
- Students must be identified for services based upon multiple, educationally-related criteria
- Must develop a prioritized list of eligible students
- Materials and supplies purchased must supplement the regular educational program at the private school



QUALIFICATIONS OF TITLE SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Teachers and paraprofessionals who are employed by the LEA must meet the licensed/certified rules under the ESSA
- Third-party providers
- Hires outside of existing contracts with LEA/private school
- All staff paid for with Title I funds are employees of the public-school during Title I instructional time







ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

- Reasonable amounts may be set aside to run the program at the public and private school
- Third-party administrative costs are allowable
- Expenses: furniture, purchase or lease of property, insurance and maintenance costs, transportation, etc.
 Must be necessary for implementation of program
- Cannot be used to renovate the private school site



PURCHASING

- All requisitions must be done on the public school's forms
- The public-school buys airline tickets, makes reservations, pays all fees
- No funds can go to the private school!!!
- Other reimbursements can go to employees: per diem, parking fees, etc.
- All need to be agreed to in the consultation process





TITLE II

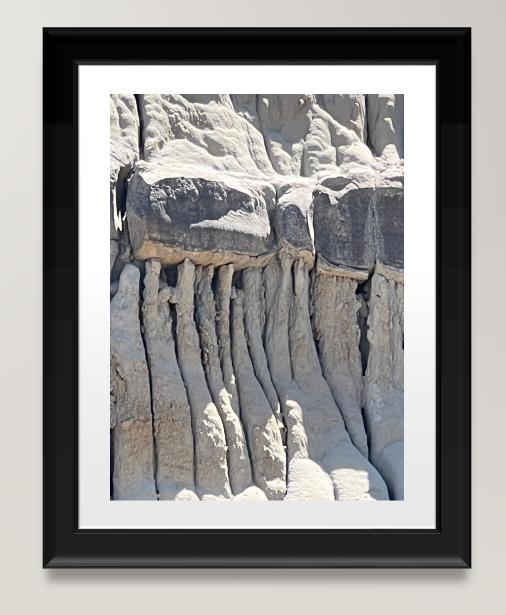
Supporting Effective Instruction

- Based upon a school needs assessment and teacher growth plans
- Private school staff may also participate in Title II, Part A
- Private school equitable share funds may only be used for professional development activities.
- Private school is required to complete a needs assessment for school PD needs, and it should also look at teacher professional growth plans.
- District may invite private school staff to its own PD activities, and a portion of those costs may come out of the equitable share set aside.
- Private schools may use a portion of the equitable share funds to attend PD like the National Catholic Schools conference.
- District may not reimburse the private school but may directly pay staff members.
- Christy Hendricks, Title II coordinator, <u>Christy.Hendricks@mt.gov</u> or 406-444-0794



TITLE III

- Title III assists ELs, including immigrant children and youth, to develop English proficiency and to meet the same challenging state academic standards that other children are expected to meet.
- Schools must use Title III funds to implement language instruction educational programs that are keyed to the overall standards. SEAs, districts, and schools must report the English proficiency and core academic content knowledge of ELs.
- Title III has a dual purpose: to help ELs meet the same state academic achievement standards applicable to all students, and that they develop proficiency in the English language. These goals are closely related but distinct.





TITLE IV-A

- Title IV Part A is also known as **Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE).** The SSAE program is intended to improve students' academic achievement by increasing the capacity to provide all students with:
- Access to a well-rounded education
- Improve school conditions for student learning, safe and healthy students
- Improve the use of technology to improve the academic achievement and digital literacy of all students



TRANSFER ORDER

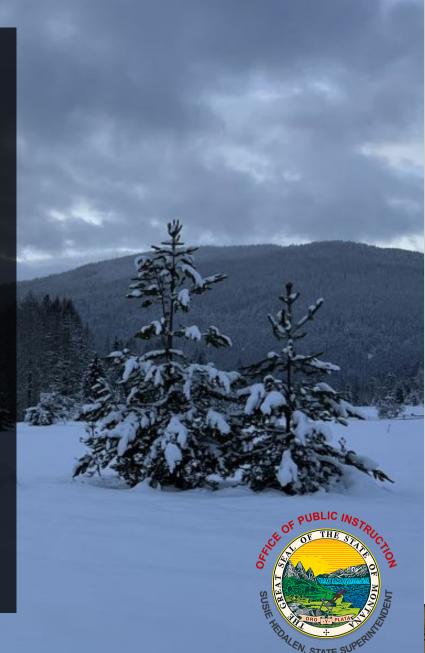
- After consultation, even if the non-public objects, the district can move funds from one federal program to another, even if this removes all federal funds from a program.
- For example, the district moves Title II, III, and IV funds to Title I. This means that there would be no equitable share funds for the private school in those programs as the fund balance would be zero. However, there would be an increase in the equitable share dollars for Title I.
- LEA must give due consideration to the request of nonpublic entity in the event there is disagreement.
- Funds may not be left behind in a federal program just for equitable share.
- The equitable share for this situation would be based upon any amount left behind.





E-GRANTS

- Egrants is the online federal funds application system used by MT districts.
- It does not need any special software, just the ability to connect to the Internet.
- The program calculates the equitable share, and districts will budget set aside funds within the program.
- Private/non-public tab shows how much each non-public gets.
- The budget pages show where the funds are being used.
- https://egrants.opi.mt.gov/opigmsweb/logon.aspx



WEBSITE AND FORMS

