



Schoolwide waiver to the 40 percent low income rule

Schools that would like to move from a targeted assistance program (TAS) to a schoolwide program (SWP) but are under the 40 percent poverty threshold will be required to do the following to be eligible for a waiver. (1) The district will send the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) a letter requesting a waiver for a school that does not meet the 40 percent threshold to become a schoolwide program. The OPI will notify the district that the school will need to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment with its stakeholders to determine the need to switch from a TAS to SWP program. (2) The school will submit to the OPI the outcome of the needs assessment along with a rational as to why the change is in the best interest of the students in the school. A three-member review team from the OPI will review the needs assessment and rational. (3) If it is determined that the change is in the best interest of the students, the school will be allowed to complete the rest of the schoolwide process. Should the OPI determine that the plan does not meet the best interest of the students, the school will be able to appeal the decision along with new facts to support the change to the OPI Deputy Superintendent of Education.

Questions about the process should be directed to:

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