Leveraging ESSER Funds - Virtual Conference

Broadband Improvement Project

Prepare, Prevent, and Respond

August 9, 2022
Goals For This Session

- Understand broadband challenges facing Montana
- Understand ESSER and other funding solutions
- OPI System of Support
  - Survey current setting to provide transitioning support
  - Assist districts in securing feasible solutions
    - Operationally, Technically, and Financially feasible

Presenter: **Victoria Hoefler**, Broadband Project Management Specialist
What is Broadband?

- An “always on” internet connection that transmits data
- Provides high-speed access with multiple technologies
  - Fiber, Cable, DSL, Satellite, Wireless (Wi-Fi)
- 25 megabits per second (Mbps) minimum download speed
- 3 megabits per second minimum upload speed

- FCC Online: https://www.fcc.gov/general/types-broadband-connections
Montana Internet facts in 2022

• Montana has 135 internet service providers
  o nationally 2,500+
• Montana ranks 46th regarding Internet coverage, speed, availability
• Montana ranked last regarding 1G access (only 5.8% had access)
• 9 in 10 residents can not purchase broadband at $60 per month
• 8 in 10 residents can not purchase fiber internet
• During COVID schools were challenged to provide remote instruction

https://www.broadbandnow.com
ESSER Funds for Broadband projects

- ESSER I (CARES) allocation 2 years ago
  - 82% has been spent
  - Expires on September 30, 2022
  - No carry over
- ESSER II (CRRSA)
  - 37% has been spent, expires 2023
- ESSER III (ARP)
  - 9% has been spent, expires 2024
- Other funds for Broadband
Technology and Impacting Factors

- Fiber, Cable, DSL, Satellite, Wireless (Wi-Fi)
- Availability, Reliability, Cost, Speed
- Hardware, Operating System, Server, Network Traffic, Router/Modem Location, Web Browser Software
- Malware/Viruses
Broadband Survey

Please send in your email responses to the 2022 OPI Broadband Survey found in the ESSER Compass or HERE.
Wrap-Up & Questions

• Where do we want broadband to be in 2 years?
• What challenges have you encountered (past or present) with your internet or technology set up?
• Do you have a dedicated I.T. person in your location who can help with technical issues?
Welcome to the Office of Public Instruction

Superintendent Elsie Arntzen is proud to serve our Montana families, students, and teachers. Families are the foundation of learning as our parents are our first teachers. Our students are our most precious resource and the future of this great state. As a teacher of 23 years, the Superintendent knows the importance of quality educators in the classroom and is working to ensure Montana teachers have the flexibility needed to put our Montana students first.

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is charged with the responsibility of providing technical assistance in:

- School Finance
- School Law
- Teacher Certification and Licensing
- School Accreditation
- Teaching and Learning Standards

The OPI staff administer a number of federally funded programs and provide a variety of information services, including the information systems necessary to assess student achievement and the quality of Montana's elementary and secondary school systems.
Thank you!

For questions or additional information please contact:

ESSER Program Questions
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Montana Broadband Questions
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