June 7, 2021

The Honorable Miguel A. Cardona
Secretary of Education
Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona,

Thank you for your leadership of the Department of Education. As our nation continues to reopen, it is imperative we ensure our children are receiving the highest-quality education.

I am writing to urge you to accept the Montana Office of Public Instruction’s state plan for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

Since COVID-19 struck our nation nearly a year ago, schools have been forced to adapt to changing circumstances. Educators and administrators across Montana have quickly and effectively responded to the changing environment.

I am confident that the Montana Office of Public Instruction’s state plan is the correct way forward and I fully support the plan. The plan will give control to local entities to make the most appropriate decisions to serve students in Montana schools.

We must work to get all of our students back in the classroom as soon as possible. The Montana Office of Public Instruction understands the unique challenges of getting students back in the classroom and ensuring they are able to continue to receive their education safely. I believe this state plan will best serve the students of Montana.

I urge you to approve Montana’s state plan for the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress
June 7, 2021

The Honorable Miguel Cardona
Secretary
U. S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Cardona,

I am writing to request you accept the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund III (ESSER III) implementation plan from Montana’s Office of Public Instruction (OPI) enclosed with this letter. As you are aware, Montana is the only state in the union offering a differentiated plan. Montanans believe that accountability and oversight works best at the local level and education officials intimately familiar with the situation on the ground in Montana are best equipped to educate Montana students.

The Montana ESSER III plan is comprehensive, emphasizes local control, and was constructed with extensive input from OPI’s stakeholder engagement process. Critically, the plan provides flexibility, support, and resources to Montana schools; empowering local communities to find solutions that advance education. As a former superintendent, you know how important it is to have the necessary flexibility to best serve pupils in a specific district.

Thankfully, we are emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the last 14 months parents, teachers, and administrators across Montana’s 403 districts have worked tirelessly to keep students engaged and learning. I trust you will accept this plan that puts students at the heart of reopening Montana schools. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

STEVE DAINES
United States Senator