



January 23, 2020

Dear Partners in Education,

The Montana State Plan outlines **5 indicators** that are used for the accountability system. Currently, the Montana OPI is researching measures of school quality for the 5th Indicator. After the research phase, we will be reaching out this Spring (2020) to collaborate and consult with our Partners in Education on this component of the ESSA plan.

1-4 Federally Required Indicators

- Academic Achievement on Statewide Assessments: ELA/Reading & Math
- Academic Growth on Statewide Assessments ELA/Reading & Math (K-8 Only)
- English Learner Progress
- Graduation Rates (HS only)

5th Indicator for Montana Flexibility: School Quality or Student Success Indicator

- Attendance
- College & Career Ready (HS Only)
- CRT Science Assessment (2016-2017)

The 5th Indicator is addressed on pages 24-26 of the Montana State Plan, which reads, *“The OPI will be creating a measure of school quality that takes into account high quality implementation of these programs and practices. This measure will be weighted at five points within the system. The OPI will submit this survey to the Department of Education once it is developed and will not use it in the accountability system until it is developed and approved.”*

Current Research Considerations:

1. Finding an established survey:
 - Aligned to stakeholder intent and the OPI’s HOPE value, to create and maintain positive, safe learning environments.
 - Valid and reliable tool: Measures program quality indicators for improving school climate, reducing behavior issues, and increasing engagement.
 - Able to meaningfully differentiate school performance
2. Financial Impact of a survey
3. Data Safety and Security: Use of Data
4. Implementation Capacity

- OPI, district, and school staff training
 - Technology requirements/infrastructure
5. Reducing Survey Burden:
- Alternating years from Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
 - Administration Logistics- is the survey manageable, effective, and efficient

For more information, contact julie.murgel@mt.gov, 406-444-3172