



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Elsie Arntzen
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Montana Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59220

Dear Superintendent Arntzen:

I am writing in response to Montana's January 29, 2024, request to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to amend its approved consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Prior to implementing any revisions to its approved consolidated State plan, a State must submit its proposed amendments to the Department for review and approval.

I have determined that the amendment request meets ESEA requirements; accordingly, I am approving Montana's amended State plan. A summary of Montana's amendment is enclosed. This letter, as well as Montana's revised ESEA consolidated State plan, will be posted on the Department's website. Any further requests to amend Montana's ESEA consolidated State plan must be submitted to the Department for review and approval.

Please be aware that approval of this amendment is not a determination that all the information and data included in the amended State plan comply with Federal civil rights requirements, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. It is Montana's responsibility to comply with these civil rights requirements.

Thank you for the work the Montana Office of Public Instruction has invested in its consolidated State plan under the ESEA. If you need any assistance regarding its implementation, please contact the Office of School Support and Accountability at: OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Adam Schott
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Programs
Delegated the Authority to Perform the
Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Enclosure

cc: Carrie Kouba, Montana Office of Public Instruction

400 MARYLAND AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20202
<http://www.ed.gov/>

The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

Amendment to the Montana Consolidated State Plan

The following is a summary of Montana’s amendment request. Please refer to the Department’s website <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/> for Montana’s complete consolidated State plan.

Title I, Part A

- *More Rigorous State-determined Action*

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) modified its more rigorous State-determined action for a Comprehensive Support and Improvement school that fails to meet exit criteria. Specifically, OPI describes a collaborative process with school leaders that may include a diagnostic review and strategic action plan to determine necessary interventions, which could include directed use of funds, systematic coaching, or targeted professional learning.