



**Montana**

**Office of Public Instruction**

**May 18th, 2021**

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**Data Systems Modernization Project  
Overview**

Office of Public Instruction Staff

**Location:** Education Advocates

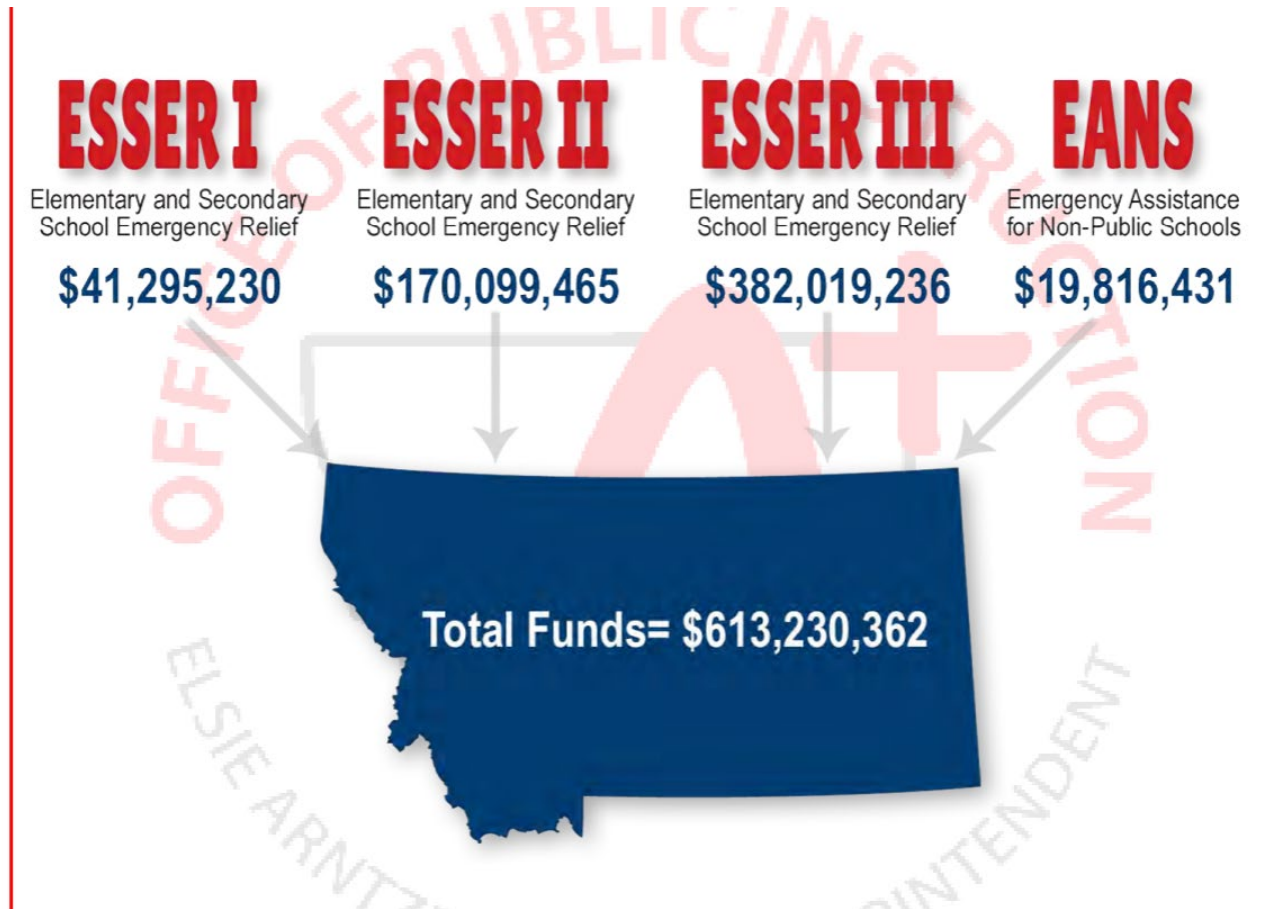


# Today's Presentation

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The purpose of today's presentation is to provide a brief overview of how the OPI expects to fulfill the expectations of recently passed legislation to modernize OPI's data systems.

# ESSER Funding





# ESSER Funding

- 90% of the funds must be allocated directly to school districts.
- 0.50% of the grant amount can be used by the OPI for administration of the grant.
- The remaining 9.5% is assigned to the OPI to be used where it can do the most good in public schools to combat the pandemic.
- For ESSER I this determination was done by the agency, but for ESSER II and ESSER III, the general uses of the grant funds were addressed by the legislature.
- The OPI worked with MT PEC, the education advocates organizations in Montana, to arrive at a consensus recommendation to the legislature for these uses.
- The consensus recommendation was accepted by the Joint Education Subcommittee and included in HB 630 and HB 632.



## ESSER Funding

- Approximately \$13.5M of ESSER II and ESSER III funding has been appropriated to the OPI by the 2021 Montana legislature for the purposes of “database modernization”.
- House Bill 630 (ESSER II) - \$8,000,000
- House Bill 632 (ESSER III) - \$5,475,248



# Total Appropriations - \$13,475,248.00

- The appropriations come with the condition that “OPI Database Modernization funds must be used by the office of public instruction to repair, improve, or replace existing data systems to respond to learning loss associated with the pandemic. Actions taken must be consistent with 20-7-104.”

# 20-7-104, MCA

- The very first sentence of “20-7-104, MCA Transparency and public availability of public school performance data -- reporting -- availability for timely use to improve instruction” reads:
- The office of public instruction's statewide data system must, at a minimum:
- (a) include data entry and intuitive reporting options that school districts can use to make timely decisions that improve instruction and impact student performance while creating a collaborative environment for parents, teachers, and students to work together in improving student performance.



# What is the Data Systems Modernization Project?

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## **To put it simply:**

A collaborative effort of the OPI and districts to reduce and eliminate “the friction” associated with collecting, reporting and using data.





# 4 Goals of the Project

- **SAVE TIME** - Reduce duplicate and unnecessary data entry and enable automation within and between systems
- **SECURE DATA** - Reduce the number of accounts and complexity of the systems
- **SUPPORT DATA USE** - Enable and foster the use of data to support programs and inform policy
- **SUSTAINABLE** - Systems must be sustainable and supportable beyond the initial implementations

# 4 Main Areas

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The Data Systems Modernization Project will revolve around 4 main areas and “collapsing” the number of systems and business processes we have:

- Student Management
- Educator Management
- Fiscal Management
- Digital Infrastructure



# Project Timeline

- The timeline of the project is being driven by the deadlines associated with the funding appropriations. Long-term the following deadlines apply:
- House Bill 630 (ESSER II) - \$8,000,000 – OPI Database Modernization – **Obligated by September 30, 2023 and fully expended by February 2024**
- House Bill 632 (ESSER III) - \$5,475,248 – OPI Database Modernization – **Obligated by September 30, 2024 and fully expended by February 2025**



# Major Tasks Happening in May 2021

- Funding/Budgets from HB 630 & 632 appropriations setup and ready to spend
- Provide information needed to develop the **OPI's ARP-ESSER Plan (This is the OPI's overall plan for the ESSER II and III funding that is to be submitted and approved by USED)**
- Hire a **Project Partner** to assist with project initiation tasks, focus groups and putting together the materials and participating in Consulting Firm RFP.



# Major Tasks Happening in May-June 2021

- Begin RFP for **Consulting Firm**. A **Consulting Firm** would be hired this Fall to perform detailed analysis and perform project tasks. They will provide technical and project services that we do not have the capacity to do in-house.
- **Convene Data Modernization Focus Groups and K-12 Data Task Force** to solicit feedback and validate the strategy and approach.
- **Hire a project manager to begin Educator Management projects**, like the Educator Licensure RFP.

# Summer-Fall 2021

- Summer-Fall 2021 – Consulting Firm hired and focus groups/K-12 Task Force continue to convene and finalize strategy and approach decisions. I expect this to take 3-6 month due to “we don’t know what we don’t know” and the time to get collective buy-in and approval.
- July – Restart Educator Management projects - MSEIS
- July – Consulting Firm RFP released
- July-October – Continue focus groups and K-12 Data Task Force meetings
- September – LFC Report
- October – Consulting Firm Selected and under contract



# Timeline – Fall 2021 and Beyond

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- Fall 2021-Winter 2022 – Initial procurement and analysis activities by **Consulting Firm** begin.
- Spring-Summer 2022 initial implementations and contract commitments begin, and we start executing on projects.



# Stay Informed

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- Please visit the Data Systems Modernization Project webpage for more information. On the project webpage you'll have access to all of the above information and new information as the project progresses. You'll also be able to subscribe to a mailing list to stay connected and up to date with the project

<http://opi.mt.gov/Data-Systems-Modernization>



# Thank you!

For questions or additional  
information please contact:

**Michael Sweeney**

[msweeney@mt.gov](mailto:msweeney@mt.gov)

**444-4411**

