



MEETING PROJECT NAME: Education Advocates Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: November 19, 2019

TIME: 9am – 10am

LOCATION: OPI – 1201 11th Avenue Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

PRESENT

Pad McCracken, Legislative Services

Pete Donovan, Executive Director, Board of Public Education (BPE)

Dennis Parman, Executive Director, Montana Rural Education Association (MREA)

Jacob Williams, Education Northwest

Erich Stiefvater, Education Northwest

Dan Rask, Executive Director, Montana Small School Alliance (MSSA)

McCall Flynn, Education Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

Nancy Hall, Lead Budget Analyst, Governor's Office

Dianne Burke, Executive Director, Montana Quality Education Coalition (via computer)

Marybeth Flachbart, Leader for Literacy & Whole School Reform, Education Northwest (via computer)

OPI STAFF

Elsie Arntzen, State Superintendent

Jule Walker, Deputy Superintendent for Operations

Ken Bailey, Chief Financial Officer

Jason Butcher, Deputy Superintendent for Education Services

Julie Murgel, School Improvement ESSA Accountability Coordinator

Phoebe Williams, Executive Office Administrator

Sharyl Allen, Transformational & Personalized Learning Manager

RECORD KEEPER

Tara Dempsey, IT Project Manager, Office of Public Instruction



TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Update on HB 351, Transformational Learning, Sharyl Allen

- Transformational Learning grants have been awarded for FY 2020. The list of districts with amounts are as follows (some districts include elementary & high schools):
 - Evergreen School District, \$94,105
 - Glendive Public Schools, \$150,892.50
 - Big Fork Public Schools, \$104,618.80
 - Plevna Schools, \$6,084.38
 - Billings Public Schools, \$509,465
 - Great Falls Public Schools, \$105,462.50
 - Conrad Public Schools, \$52,882.68
- The breakdown of applicants by district size is as follows:
 - C – 12
 - B – 5
 - A – 4
 - AA - 7
- Funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis, so the OPI has identified the applicants in a ranking list following the FY 2020 submissions. Schools not awarded in the first year increase the likelihood of being awarded in the next year by applying and being placed on the list. You can view all the schools that applied and the seven that were awarded on the [HB 351 Ranking List](#).
- Applications will open again on February 3, 2020 to help get ahead of districts' permissive levies. Districts already on the HB 351 Ranking List do not have to re-apply because of the quick application turn around. It is anticipated that 8.5 additional districts could be funded for FY2021, with a total of \$2,600,000 in funds for the biennium.
- HB 351 has an 8-year funding cycle identified in the bill. Districts can be qualified for four consecutive years.

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Update on HB 387, Sharyl Allen

- HB 387 is permanently funded and uses a first-come, first-served application process.
- Submissions will be accepted beginning on December 2nd through January 13th. For FY 2021, \$750,000 is available.
- Sixty percent of funds are required to be used to directly follow the student by offsetting parent costs for grades 6-12. Forty percent of funds can be used for any K-12 career, vocational or technical education district course.

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Educator Shortage Report, Ken Bailey

- The OPI has released the [Critical Quality Educator Shortages Report](#) as part of the [Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program](#). The OPI developed the report according to very specific definitions about what decides an educator shortage in a district.
 - The report is listed on the [Quality Educator Loan Assistance FAQs](#) page under the “Administrators” section.
- The report includes information about the background of the program and information about the criteria for educator shortages and impacted schools as outlined by MCA. It also contains an explanation of the methodology used to identify Quality Educator Shortages. The bulk of the report is the listing of the shortages for 2019-2020 (pages 2-74). You can search the pdf report by using the find function (Ctrl + f).
- As noted in the footnote of the report, the OPI is reviewing the results of the report and will update any errors through February 1, 2020. The Accreditation division is working to review any inconsistencies to make corrections. Schools can also identify any they find as well.
- A “1” in the separate columns does not necessarily reflect multiple shortages across each area. It can mean that one not filled position meets several criteria.
- The OPI is still exploring whether the assistance is subject to federal tax and also if teachers who receive assistance under the program will see any impact to federal programs in which they may participate.

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

ESSA Amendments & Updates

- Two amendments that represent technical changes have been submitted to the Department of Education.
 - Updating the proficiency and exit criteria for English Learners as measured by the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs 2.0 Assessment and adding exit criteria for the WIDA Alternate Assessment.
 - Amending the allocation process of Title IV, Part A, funding to follow the revised federal funding formula for Title 1 districts.

More information about each amendment is located on the [ESSA page](#), with links to the redlined plan for reference.

- The OPI is requesting feedback on both amendments.

TOPIC & PRESENTER INFO

Mountain West Comprehensive Center, Education Northwest reorganization, Jacob Williams

- The reorganization plan for Education Northwest represents a more focused regional approach, with Montana and Idea now comprising the Mountain West Comprehensive Center.
- The included PowerPoint shares more information about the OPI’s relationship and upcoming work with the Mountain West Comprehensive Center, including staff assigned to Montana.



Region 17 Mountain West Comprehensive Center



Specifics of the Agreement

- Cooperative agreement between US DOE and Education Northwest
- Primary clients are the SEAs of Idaho and Montana
- May also serve LEAs
- Build the states' capacity to provide support to LEAs and schools in the implementation of ESEA (ESSA)



Rural Nature of Both States

- Serving rural schools
- Recruiting and retaining effective educators

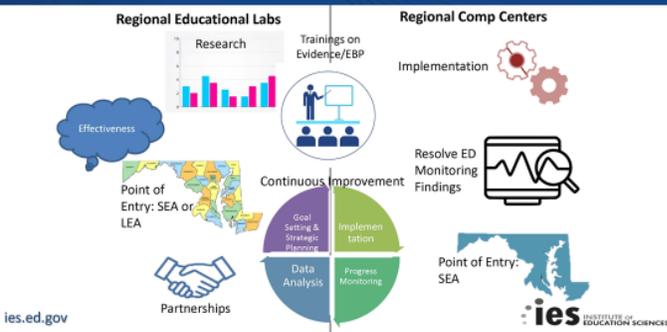


Specifics of the Agreement

- Award of \$1 million annually
- Award to split evenly between states
- Region 17 Center is located in Boise, ID
- Works with NW Regional Education Lab
- Focus on processes and implementation of applied research



Complementary Roles of RELs and CCs



Staff assigned to Montana

- Celeste Janssen, Director, Center for Strengthening Educational Systems
- Marybeth Flachbart, Region 17 Director
- Jacob Williams, Manager, Montana
- Erich Stiefvater, REL Coordinator
- Additional EDNW staff as needed
- Sub awards to Blueprint for Education and Side-by-Side Consulting



