



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

September 20, 2022

The Honorable Elsie Arntzen  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Montana Office of Public Instruction  
P.O. Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Dear Superintendent Arntzen:

I am writing to acknowledge Montana's submission on June 16, 2022, to the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to update its consolidated State plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to reflect previously approved changes using the COVID-19 State Plan Addendum (Addendum). As indicated in the Department's approval letter for Montana's Addendum on April 22, 2022, I approved certain changes through the Addendum that are not limited to the 2021-2022 school year and indicated that the State must submit an updated ESEA consolidated State plan that incorporates those approved changes at a later date.

Montana's updated consolidated State plan incorporates the following changes that were approved through the Addendum and are not limited to the 2021-2022 school year:

- Shift forward long-term goals for academic achievement, graduation rate, and progress in achieving English language proficiency by two years.
- Updated timeline for identifying schools for comprehensive and additional targeted support and improvement (CSI and ATSI).
- Modified exit criteria for CSI or ATSI schools that are identified in fall 2022.

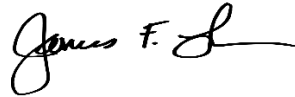
This letter and Montana's updated consolidated State plan will be posted on the Department's website (available at: <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/school-support-and-accountability/essa-consolidated-state-plans/>). Please be aware that acknowledgement of this update to Montana's consolidated State plan is not a determination that all the information and data included in the updated 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.

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.*

I appreciate all you are doing to support your districts and schools to ensure the health and well-being of students and educators. Thank you again for your dedication to this effort. If you have any questions, please contact my staff at [OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov](mailto:OESE.TitleI-a@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James F. Lane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James F. Lane, Ed.D.  
Senior Advisor, Office of the Secretary  
Delegated the Authority to Perform the  
Functions and Duties of the Assistant Secretary  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

cc: Dr. Julie Murgel, MT OPI Chief Operating Officer