



Dear Partners in Education,

September 14, 2017

**Montana's State Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act is now submitted:**

- **The DOE will work toward completion of their peer review of Montana's plan and consult with the OPI in four to six weeks;** however, it may take longer because many states will be submitting at this time unlike this spring when seventeen states submitted.
- After peer review we will have **fifteen days to make revisions suggested by peer review** that the OPI and partners in education agree with and then resubmit the plan to the DOE. **We will call an urgent meeting to discuss peer review comments with our partners in education.**
- **Next the Department of Education can accept the plan or request further justification or changes** to certain areas of the plan. We are working to further develop the survey in the 5<sup>th</sup> indicator, school report cards and more over the next two months so that we have further information if requested from peer reviewers. **Please watch for calls for participation in the next phase of development and implementation efforts in the near future.**

**Thank you to all the staff at the OPI for working continually on ESSA:**

The OPI appreciates the ongoing efforts across every division in the agency to create a comprehensive, accurate, and technical document to submit to the Department of Education.

**Thank you to our Partners in Education for the ongoing input and collaboration:**

Over last two weeks many ESSA discussions occurred between the Governor's Office, Statewide PTA, the Board of Public Education, Legislators, School Counselors and Psychologists, various school superintendents, leadership teams, and our MT-PEC partners. Changes have been made to honor and include suggestions from these groups and organizations; input and feedback was valued and used. The OPI appreciates your participation!

**New ESSA Information**

Next week new information and a Power Point you can share with staff will be sent to you and new documents will be posted on the website!

*Please send questions to [ESSAinput@mt.gov](mailto:ESSAinput@mt.gov)*