Assessment Pilot:

The Montana Assessment pilot is scheduled to begin in November.

At this time, we need districts who are willing to participate, in the pilot. We will need a minimum of 1600 students per test per grade. (Grade 5: ELA & Math; Grade 7: ELA & Math) We are hoping to have more than 1200 so we will have test results that can help us in developing the MT Assessment system moving forward.

Please anticipate that you will receive a phone call from a member of our team or being part of one of the MASS requests for a special session to provide more information from our pilot vendor.

On another note, the OPI was notified by the USED that Montana is funded for the Competitive Grant State Assessment which will be key in developing the next MT Assessment system. The award was just under $3,000,000.

Accreditation:

Thursday, September 1, 2022, TEAMS Opens for reporting and closes Tuesday, November 1, 2022.

2022-2023 Accreditation Process:

1. Restart the number of consecutive years for deviations for the assurance standards, such that, each deviation will be consider year 1 on the accreditation status reference criteria guide

2. Continue to use the ARP-ESSER district plan in place of the Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Approve the Federal LEA plan required by all public-school districts accepted ARP-ESSER funds as the continuous school improvement plan for the 2022-2023 school year (ARM 10.55.601(3)). This will allow school districts to have a single plan to meet the demands of continuous improvement of learning for Montana students while providing relief from multiple plans with the same intended outcome. For public school districts declining these funds and private schools that are accredited, the continuous school improvement plans as outlined in ARM 10.55.601(3), would still be required. To access the LEA Plan, log into your TEAMS account. You will see ARP ESSER LEA PLAN on the homepage.
MASS REGION UPDATES

3. Utilize the Student Performance Assessment Results from 2022 for the student performance standards

- 3rd-8th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Math and English Language Arts proficiency rates
- 11th grade ACT Math and English Language Arts proficiency rates
- 4-year graduation cohort rate from 2022

TEAMS Virtual Work Sessions

The Accreditation and Educator Preparation unit is offering 14 virtual work sessions in September and October to assist with completing the TEAMS report. They are all via Zoom and you do not need to register beforehand. There are 5 sessions intended for new users and 9 sessions for returning users that discuss FY2023 Updates.

2022-2023 TEAMS Virtual Work Sessions Schedule

MATH STANDARDS

submitted to the Board of Public Education for opening for Review. The recommendation from the State Superintendent has been submitted to the BOPE for their September 14-15 meeting.

CHAPTER 55 – Q&A SESSION FOR COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS & TRUSTEES

Date: September 20, 2022
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

A Superintendent Session is scheduled for September 27th, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. The invitation will be forthcoming.

IMPROVED OUTREACH FOR MASS UPDATES FROM THE OPI

The OPI is providing a checklist from which you can select specific topics be presented for your region. Provided is the checklist link for your use. The goal is that we are able to provide expertise from the agency to address specific question areas.

https://forms.gle/bdXV2L1VRtgcd1mo7

Quick Topics

The Superintendent’s #1 Priority:
Funding for Base Aid for our school districts!

Board of Public Education Meets September 14-15. Contact the BOPE Office to get a copy of the link for the meeting.
Directory Information: The OPI provides a statewide directory of school district key personnel. For this information to be accurate, it requires clerks to update to enter updated information in OPI Contacts. This is a portal that only clerks have access.

SBAC data will be released to districts on September 1. The data will be embargoed through September 9th before releasing it to the public.

September 13 ESSER Virtual Conference 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Look for the invitation to participate the first week of September.

September 17 is Constitution Day. Every school district is encouraged to ensure that our Constitution is taught in every class, every grade and recognized for its timeless value to U.S. citizens and residents.

Preamble
We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, ensure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

How is Montana Doing with the ESSER-ARP Requirements?
- The Required Maintenance of Equity with funding was resolved by MT months ago and when an update was requested based on our data, Paul Taylor navigated these requests with minimal disruption. Many states are still trying to resolve this issue.
- Data Collection of ESSER I – The data was collected last winter, submitted in May with many errors, finally submitted due to a team effort from the OPI. The updated data will be submitted by September 9th. The OPI team was able to get unique identifiers from districts while many states have temporary numbers that will need to be resolved soon. This is a huge accomplishment and big thanks are sent to the field for your cooperation on the data collection. Thank you!
- The Board of Public Education authorized the ARP-ESSER Plan with key requirements embedded for the accreditation continuous school improvement plan added, for meeting the CSIP in accreditation. MT’s focus on meeting district needs surpasses that of many states.

Thought: “It takes more courage to reveal insecurities than to hide them, more strength to relate to people than to dominate them.” – Alex Karras
2021-2022 Training Summary – OPI Montana Autism Education Project

In the 2021-2022 school year, the OPI Montana Autism Education Project (MAEP) provided:

42 different trainings and with repeated trainings, a total of 63 trainings.

These trainings were attended by 1,350 Montana educators, parents and others who have an interest in autism and behavior management. They completed 6,372 hours of training.

You can read more of our training summary, including attendees by position and average training scores here.

2021 Child Count Data on Montana Students with Autism

Have you ever wondered how many students have been identified with autism? How much (or little) those numbers change from year to year? What ages and gender they are? You can find those answers and more information in our review of the 2021 Child Count Data, located here.

Also, you can see a video of the number of Montana Students with Autism by County from 2011 - 2021 here.

A Refresher of OPI's Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder (virtual training)

September 15  2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
October 21  10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  (Same content each day.)

This training will include:

1. Why and how the OPI created a new educational autism criteria in 2019;
2. A review of the OPI autism criteria; including examples for specific characteristics by gender, age and use/non-use of spoken language.
3. Time for questions and answers.

Two OPI renewal units are available for this training.

You can register for the Autism Criteria training here.
Dr. Jennifer Schoffer Closson – virtual training series

We are bringing back these popular virtual trainings from last year AND have added more trainings. These 90 minute to three-hour virtual trainings are scheduled twice per month from September to June. Topics will include:


You can view the full training schedule, session descriptions and register for upcoming trainings here.

ADOS-2 Initial Training (in-person training)

What is the ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule)?

The Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule-Second Edition (ADOS-2) is a standardized assessment tool that helps providers identify autism spectrum disorder in children and adults. The ADOS involves a semi-structured play or interview session determined by the age and communication level of the individual. (Learn more here.)

Missoula – September 26 and 27
Billings – September 29 and 30

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. Limited to 50 participants. 14 OPI renewal units will be provided.

You can register here.

MonTECH Assistive Technology series (virtual training)

Each month we will feature a different assistive technology (AT) training from MonTECH. These virtual trainings will be from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Two OPI renewal units will be provided for each training. Registration will open for each training ~ 30 days prior.

September 20: AT 101
October 18: iPad 101
November 15: Notetaking and Organization
December 20: Behavior/Sensory Part 1
January 17: Behavior/Sensory Part 2
February 21: Success with Communication
**March 21:** Communication Part 1

**April 18:** Communication Part 2

More information about the training series and registration for the next upcoming workshop(s) can be found here.

**The Birds and the Bees: Hygiene, Puberty & Safety for Youth with ASD or Other Developmental Disorders (virtual training)**

October 20, 2022  8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

With up to 80% of individuals with disabilities reportedly becoming the victims of sexual/physical abuse or crimes by the time they reach adulthood, the topics of hygiene, puberty, and sexual development are imperative to safety. Unfortunately, these topics are often overlooked. Strategies for teaching hygiene, puberty, and sexual development with an emphasis on safety will be discussed.

Six OPI renewal units will be available for this training. The training will not be recorded.

You can find more information and register here.

**Behavioral Skills Training for SLPs (virtual training)**

October 27  11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Behavioral Skills Training (BST) is an evidence-based strategy that can be applied to teach a variety of skills. BST includes four primary steps including Instruction, Modeling, Rehearsal and Feedback. This webinar will review some of the interesting applications of BST including literature related to the application of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). Considerations for SLPs to incorporate BST within their sessions will be explored with specific examples provided. We will also include recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of feedback – one of the key components of the BST model.

The OPI has a limited number of scholarships for public school SLPs and Speech Aides to attend this training. Two OPI renewal units and 0.15 ASHA CEUs will be provided for this training.

You can request a scholarship here.
**PECS Level 1 Training (virtual training)**

Individuals who are nonverbal or have limited speech need a communication system they can start using right now. The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) provides an immediately useful method for requesting things, actions and people, in a way that requires and promotes social interaction. Using the principles of applied behavior analysis, PECS starts by teaching spontaneous requesting and as quickly as possible, moves on to responding to questions as well as commenting about things in the environment.

The OPI Montana Autism Education Project has a limited number of scholarships for virtual PECS Level 1 trainings. Because we will be hosting additional in-person trainings in PECS Level 1 and Teaching Critical Communication Skills, the virtual PECS Level 1 trainings are only available to educators who are in districts which are at least 90 miles from one of Montana’s seven largest cities.

You can find more information about PECS and register here.

**PECS Level 2 Training (virtual training)**

*Prerequisite: PECS Level 1 Training*

This two-day training focuses on creating lessons and activities to promote communication throughout the day. Beginning with a review of the Pyramid Approach to Education as it relates to PECS, we guide you in refining your PECS implementation and discuss current challenges you have experienced within the six phases. As you acquire teaching strategies on expanding vocabulary and syntax combined with new ideas for materials, we will discuss how to increase communication opportunities for your learner. Throughout the training, you will be provided with presenter demonstrations, video examples and opportunities to role-play.

We have a limited number of scholarships for an online PECS Level 2 training on October 24-25, 2022.

The training is from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 14 OPI renewal units are available.

You can register here.

**Upcoming Trainings:** You can always find our trainings on the Montana Autism Education Project blog at: [http://mtautism.opiconnect.org](http://mtautism.opiconnect.org). We will be adding virtual and in-person trainings to the blog as we schedule training dates throughout the school year.