



School Leadership Support Office Hours Summary

January 31, 2024

Early Literacy Intervention (HB 352) with Deputy Superintendent and Chief Legal Counsel, Rob Stutz

- Many districts have expressed an interest in hosting an early literacy intervention program, per [20-7-1803, MCA](#).
- Districts have three intervention options:
 - Classroom-based
 - Home-based
 - Jumpstart
- There were questions about the start date of the Jumpstart program for the summer of 2024. OPI's Chief Legal Counsel shared that [Section 7 and Section 9 of HB 352](#) clearly outline the July 1, 2024 effective date for the Jumpstart program. See the Questions section at the end of this document for more specific answers to those questions.
- The OPI has a team in place to help schools implement these intervention plans.
 - [Early Literacy Targeted Intervention Guidance](#)
 - [Early Literacy Collaborative](#)
- The Board of Public Education's Montana Early Literacy Advisory Council provided recommendations for the evaluation assessments. They offered a list of screeners that meet these criteria. You may find their [evaluation methodologies and recommendations here](#).

New Accreditation platform- Opening today! (January 31, 2024)

- The accreditation team reviewed the new platform.
- Crystal Andrews, Director of Accreditation and Licensure, shared some important items for Superintendents and Authorized Representatives to note:
 - Authorized Representatives will receive an email when the platform goes live
 - Schools will log in via TeachMT
 - Be sure to carefully select the schools- many schools have similar names, so be sure to select the correct school name and code.
 - The submission needs to be done in one session, the platform will not save progress, so be sure to have all materials ready and submit all at once.
- Accreditation is hosting several training sessions on the new accreditation platform. Register for those [here](#) or view recordings of past webinars.

Questions asked during the office hours:

1. Can a summer jumpstart program begin in June *this year* and count the ANB? (HB 352 is effective July 1, 2024)

Answer: Schools could have a jumpstart program begin in June. In order to count those students for the additional quarter ANB enrollment count, however, the jumpstart program under [HB 352](#) must include the following **on or after July 1, 2024**.

“The jumpstart program must:

- (i) take place during the time between the end of one school calendar year and the start of the next school calendar year, as determined by the trustees, preceding a child's entry into kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, or 3rd grade;
- (ii) be at least 4 weeks in duration and provide at least 120 instructional hours;
- (iii) be aligned to a framework determined by the board of public education;
- (iv) be designed in a manner to increase the likelihood of a child being evaluated at the end of the ensuing school year to be at or above a trajectory leading to reading proficiency at the end of 3rd grade”

For example, the jumpstart program duration requirements in § [20-7-1803\(7\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#), MCA, (i.e., 4 weeks and 120 hours) must occur on or after July 1, even if the program begins in June.

2. Can a summer jumpstart program begin in June in future years and count the ANB?

Answer: Yes.

3. If a school is interested in providing a slightly alternate schedule for high school students to support those with academic needs, how is the best way to offer that? Per ARM [10-55-906](#), schools can work with their board of trustees to provide some flexibilities. The Montana School Boards Association has helped schools with policies like this and may also be a helpful resource.

Topics Next Week

- The New Accreditation platform
- February Compass overview and important upcoming due dates