



## October 2023 MASS Update

### 1. OPI Communication and Support for District and County Superintendents

- a. Thank you to all the superintendents who joined the OPI during the office hours during September. These office hours will continue every **Wednesday from 10:00-11:00 am**. They will be held on Zoom at:
  - o Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://mtgov.zoom.us/j/85381842220?pwd=cXpNTjlxenlYTytWNzJLTXFVGvYuT09>
  - o Meeting ID: 853 8184 2220 Password: 001745
  - o Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 853 8184 2220 Password: 001745 Find your local number: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/u/kvr6OdGGz>
- b. In addition, we will continue to post this monthly summary and the weekly office hours summary on the [School Leader Support](#) webpage.
- c. Reach out directly to [OPIschoolleadersupport@mt.gov](mailto:OPIschoolleadersupport@mt.gov) with any questions.

### 2. SY 2023-2024 Accreditation Process

- a. On October 2, 2023, the OPI published guidance documents for the 2023 accreditation process. These documents outline the Integrated Strategic Plan (ISAP) template questions.
- b. The ISAP will be due, submitted via the accreditation platform by **March 29, 2024**.
- c. [Year 1 requirements](#)
- d. Find all the information about this process on the [School Accreditation](#) webpage.
- e. The new accreditation portal for entering information and uploading documentation will be available in January 2024.
- f. **If you have any questions on inputting data into AIM**, please reach out to the OPI's AIM team for help. They are available at [opiaimhelp@mt.gov](mailto:opiaimhelp@mt.gov) or call 1-877-424-6681 or 406-444-3800, or visit their [webpage](#) for information.

### 3. MAST (Montana Alternative Student Testing) Pilot Program

- a. **Last chance** for districts to participate in Form B of this pilot program. Districts will benefit from the opportunity to familiarize with the MAST testlets and the Kite platform prior to statewide implementation of MAST in SY 2024-2025.
- b. For more information on MAST, go to [OPI's website](#) or contact [Krystal Smith](#).

### 4. Early Literacy Collaborative- HB 352 provides targeted early literacy interventions.

Superintendent Arntzen is focusing on the intent for collaboration in this bill by creating an **Early Literacy Collaborative**, made up of parents, educators, administrators, and partner agency representatives. Interested persons are invited to express their interest in being part of this

Early Literacy Collaborative by completing this form. In addition, the OPI has a representative on the Board of Public Education's (BPE) Early Literacy Advisory Council and the Superintendent looks forward to this collaboration.

**5. ESSER Information- Contact Wendi Fawns with questions**

- a. ESSER Closeout of ESSER II. Now in cash request mode, and districts are submitting the cash requests until October 25, then final reports due until November 10. Cannot do a cash request and final expenditure during the same month.
- b. ESSER III- moving into ESSER III and working with districts throughout the year rather than just the at the end of the year for funding purposes.
- c. Districts are currently completing and submitting the ESSER self-assessment. Already, 35 districts have submitted- thank you! This includes space for districts to submit narrative comments as well as yes/no components. Please include those important extra notes as needed. It is a required document and is district-level (not school). This report takes all ESSER I, II, and III into account.
- d. This self-assessment has two documents (available online, but all districts should have received an email with this information. If you did not receive the email, please contact **Wendi Fawns**):
  - i. Word document with more information on each question/tab.
  - ii. Excel document where all districts will submit their responses. This document has the yes/no and narrative questions and responses (tabs along the bottom).

**6. School Finance:** The official fall count day was Monday, October 2nd, 2023. You may import data once Aggregate Hours are entered in AIM (Infinite Campus). All data in AIM (Infinite Campus) must be certified before being imported to MAEFAIRS. District staff should verify the enrollment and absences in Infinite Campus prior to importing and submitting their student count data in MAEFAIRS. As a reminder, all data must be certified and accurately entered into MAEFAIRS on or before **October 18, 2023**. After this date no more changes or corrections will be made. For more information, go to the School Finance webpage, contact Andrea Mohammadi at (406) 444-1960, or contact school finance at opischoolfinance@mt.gov.