



## School Leadership Support Office Hours

Meeting Summary

October 18, 2023

### **HB 338- Revising IEFA laws, sponsored by Representative Windy Boy.**

*Rob Stutz, Chief Legal and Deputy Superintendent shared information regarding the timelines of this legislation. OPI will create a frequently asked questions document for this bill. The bill was effective July 1, 2023. Section 4, subsection b, explains that if a school's expenditure of IEFA funds is less than its IEFA revenue, the funding for the next year will be reduced by the amount not expended. This will not affect FY 24 budget, but will impact the FY 25 budget, based on the TFS (Trustee Financial Statement) for FY 23. It is very important that the TFS correctly identifies the IEFA budget expenditures. Any gaps in the expenditures and revenues can result in a reduction in the FY 25. There was a flag in the data entry system for the TFS that indicated to a user that there was a discrepancy between IEFA revenues and expenditures.*

**Question:** *This bill seems to put a reporting requirement backwards in time to affect future funding?*

**Answer:** There has always been a reporting requirement, which applies to FY 24 reporting, the new requirement (section 4b) applies next year for the current fiscal year. This is a newly added requirement to an existing reporting requirement. **A question to clarify:** for example, if a school received \$1000, but only reported \$800, their Base IEFA aid will be reduced in FY 25 by \$200. **Answer:** Yes, and schools would have the opportunity to request a hearing and go before the Board of Public Education.

### **Questions about the IEFA reporting or correcting a TFS?**

- The TFS guide (page 7) has the form and steps necessary to correct a TFS.
  - [TFS Guide](#)
  - [School Data Error Correction Form](#)
- Reach out to OPI's School Finance Team: [OPISchoolFinance@mt.gov](mailto:OPISchoolFinance@mt.gov).

### **Other Questions from Superintendents:**

- **Comprehensive Needs Assessment:** How many respondents are we required to have answer the survey? There is not a specific requirement from the OPI, but schools should aim for gathering information from a broad range of stakeholders.
- **We have a separate elementary and high school district. The respondent must select the school district- are the questions the same?** Yes, they are.
- **When is the next work meeting for the accreditation process?** November 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>- a deep dive into the ISAP. Looking at the overview and showing examples of possible answers. Find information on the accreditation main page.
- **Having an accreditation work session in Eastern Montana- what is the possibility of that?** In November we will be planning that session and will post the information.

**Next week:** Nicole Thuotte with our AIM Unit will be on the call to answer questions.