



SPECIAL EDUCATION CONTACTS

Montana Office of Public Instruction

Safety and Student Supports

- *Special Education is part of Safety and Student Supports at OPI.*

SSS Department Leadership:

Patrick Cates, Senior Manager, Interim State Director of Special Education
Patrick.Cates@mt.gov 406-594-9993

Special Education Director's Office

State Director of Special Education, Vacant

- Special Education Advisory Panel
- Annual Performance Report
- IDEA Technical Assistance

Danni McCarthy, Associate Director,
DMccarthy@mt.gov, 406-594-3610

- Professional Development
- Compliance Monitoring
- Technical Assistance

Ty House, Administrative Assistant
Ty.House@mt.gov, 406-444-2504

- General Information
- Contracts
- Discretionary Grants
- Advisory Panel Information

Victoria Peterson, Victoria.Peterson@mt.gov,
406-444-1325

- Special Education Infinite Campus Support
- Behavior Data Collection

Family Resources

Support with:

- *Resources for families and students*
- *Information on parent involvement*
- *Support for families with special needs*

Annette Gorton, Annette.Gorton@mt.gov,
406-594-3004

- Technical Assistance for Special Education
- Family & School Communication

School Improvement & Monitoring

Support with:

- *Special Education Compliance*
- *IDEA Technical Assistance & Information*
- *Writing Compliant IDEA Documents*

Crystal Wright, School Improvement Unit Manager, Crystal.Wright@mt.gov,
406-202-7920

- Secondary Transition

Jillian Bellah, Jillian.Bellah@mt.gov,
406-438-0749

- English Language Learners served under IDEA

IDEA Data & Reporting

Support with:

- *IDEA data collections & state reporting*
- *Data analysis and interpretation*
- *Student Information Systems (SIS)*

Data Specialist, Vacant 406-444-4430



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Continuing Education & Technical Assistance

Support with:

- Professional development opportunities
- Grants for MTSS, CSPD, and GT
- Technical assistance in specialty areas listed below

Tammy Lysons, CETA Unit Manager,

Tamara.Lysons@mt.gov, 406-431-2309

- State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)
- Summer Institute

Lucy Beltz, Lucy.Beltz2@mt.gov, 406-431-4654

- Early Childhood Special Education
- Educational Interpreters
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Hearing Conservation Program

Anne Carpenter, Anne.Carpenter2@mt.gov,
406-465-0922

- Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD)
- Para Pathways Project

Jenny Jarvis, Jenny.Jarvis@mt.gov,
406-410-1140

- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Gifted & Talented

Katie Mattingley, Katie.Mattingley@mt.gov,
406-437-3874

- MT Autism Education Project (MAEP)

Annette Vicedo Young, AYoung3@mt.gov,
406-444-0299

- Stipend Programs
- Higher Education Consortium

IDEA Fiscal

Support with:

- IDEA funding and grants
- Budget and expenditure reporting
- Compliance with federal fiscal requirements

Kimber Emmons, IDEA Fiscal Manager,

Kimberlea.Emmons@mt.gov, 406-438-0180

Dispute Resolution

Support with:

- Technical Assistance with understanding the requirements of the IDEA and implementing Montana special education laws.
- Informal dispute resolution for special education issues.
- Dispute resolution options under the IDEA: Individualized Education Program (IEP) facilitation, mediation, state complaints, due process hearings, and expedited due process hearings.

Angie Griner, Paralegal, Angie.Griner@mt.gov,
406-444-2046

Mandi Gibbs, Dispute Resolution Director,
MGibbs@mt.gov, 406-444-5664