

# The OPI Monthly Summary

June 2021



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## While Buildings Are Empty, Get Ready for Students to Return

Effective school maintenance protects capital investment, ensures the health and safety of our children, and supports educational performance. Schools can use this summer break as an opportunity to assess their building's environment and make improvements to help reduce COVID-19 transmission while also meeting the requirements in the [DPHHS administrative rules](#) regarding matters of public health in Montana schools. The [CDC and the EPA have resources](#) to help schools create and maintain healthy indoor environments during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

## RISE Youth Leadership

The RISE (Resiliency in Something Else) team has requested to maintain their meetings with our team and Youth Leadership Facilitator, Sage Golisano. To witness the relationships these youth have developed after 30 to 40 zoom meetings over the past year is exciting. With or without our team, these students from across the state will remain connected long into the future as they shared, confronted and fought through this pandemic year together. We will be recruiting many of these students as well as others to participate in the youth panel at the upcoming MTEdx-21 Conference.

For more information, contact Donnie Wetzel, at [dwetzel2@mt.gov](mailto:dwetzel2@mt.gov), or 406-444-4527





## Comprehensive and Targeted Support and Improvement

**The Regional Summit for all schools and districts in Comprehensive Status will take place on August 3-5 in Billings, MT!**

The summit is an opportunity for schools and districts identified in Comprehensive Support and Improvement; attendance is highly recommended but not required. Each day there will be designated time for you and your leadership team to meet, plan, and coordinate efforts before the school year begins. The travel cost including hotel, breakfast, lunch will be paid by OPI and an additional mini-grant funding will be awarded to districts participating to cover stipends, mileage, and evening meals. We need to limit your teams to 6 people so all schools in comprehensive can participate. However, if space becomes available, we will send out an email stating how many spots we have open and more team members can sign up. We also highly recommend you include your business clerk to attend with your leadership team. It will be an opportunity for him/her to hear the overall plans of your district. Each person from your leadership team needs to fill out the registration form by June 25th to ensure a hotel room can be reserved for you.

Register [HERE](#)

For more information, contact [Carrie.Kouba@mt.gov](mailto:Carrie.Kouba@mt.gov), 406-444-0864

## View Webinar Recordings for Renewal Units

The MT OPI IEFA Unit has some great options for earning renewal units virtually. Teachers looking for remote PD options over the summer can watch recordings from our Series 2 Unpacking the Essential Understandings webinar, the Essential Understandings Deeper Dive workshops, or our 2021 IEFA Best Practices Conference at their own pace. These offerings will help them learn more about the Essential Understandings Regarding Montana Indians and other elements of IEFA to improve implementation across content areas and grade levels. A short survey must be completed at the conclusion of each recorded webinar to receive renewal units.

For more information, please visit the [OPI IEFA website](#) or contact Joan Franke @ 444-3694 or [jfranke@mt.gov](mailto:jfranke@mt.gov)



## AIM End of Year Attendance Totals with Program Participation: 5/3/2021-6/18/2021

The End of Year Attendance Totals collection should be done AFTER the 2020-21 enrollments have ended during the End of Year Enrollment Process listed above. This includes entering or calculating the ADA # Days present, ADA # Days enrolled and ESSA # Days Absent for each enrollment in the 2020-21 school year.

The Program Participation collection can be done at any time before the 6/18/21 deadline. This collection identifies the programs the students participated in and generates funding from those programs. Please see our AIM End of Year Attendance Totals User Guide and our AIM Program Participation User Guide on this collection. We also have our recorded webinar on this collection.

## AIM End of Year CTE Collection: 5/10/2021-6/30/2021

The End of Year Career and Technical Education (CTE) Collection identifies all grades 9-12 high school students who have completed (or will complete) at least 2 credits, 4 semesters, or more of CTE coursework in an approved Montana Pathway. It also identifies those students who have earned less than 2 credits in a Pathway, qualifying them as a Participant, rather than a Concentrator. Please see our new AIM End of Year CTE Collection User Guide.

## AIM Behavior Validation and Certification: 5/12/2021-6/30/2021

This process involves setting up user access including secondary users for validating the behavior data and primary users for certifying the behavior data. It also involves completing the validation and certification processes. Please see our AIM Behavior Setting Up User Access for Validating and Certifying User Guide, our AIM Behavior Secondary Users User Guide, and our AIM Behavior Primary Users User Guide. We also have our recorded webinar on this collection.

## Indian Education for All

IEFA Grant Opportunities for 2021-22 School Year  
The OPI Indian Education For All (IEFA) Unit has opened the RFP portal for 2021-22 IEFA grant proposals in the e-grants system. Districts can apply for funding up to \$12,000 to develop and support activities that strengthen and enhance their IEFA implementation efforts. Proposals must be submitted in the e-grants system by July 31st, 2021. However, districts interested in submitting a proposal must contact Zach Hawkins, OPI IEFA Director, to talk through their ideas prior to submitting a proposal. The deadline to contact him and discuss your proposal ideas is June 30th, 2021.

For more information, please contact Zach Hawkins @ 444-0708 or zachariah.hawkins@mt.gov



## Available PIR Opportunities

We know that school leadership is planning for PIR for the upcoming school year, and we want to be sure you are aware of the many already scheduled opportunities available to your staff. The [OPI Professional Learning Opportunities Portal](#) is updated daily with the various open-access professional learning opportunities that are happening across the state. In addition, you may find the Teacher Learning Hub's 2021-2022 [Facilitated Calendar](#) and [entire course catalog](#) helpful as you plan for the upcoming school year. If you are interested in utilizing the Teacher Learning Hub as a part of your PIR plans, the [Information for School Administrators website](#) is full of helpful tips!

Our new [Evidence-Based Practices self-paced course on the Teacher Learning Hub](#) is also available to help you learn more about the ESSA Tiers of Evidence. This course provides school staff with a foundation for understanding the difference between research-based and evidence-based and how to select evidence-based practices that align with your school's comprehensive needs assessment and gap analysis.

## New Standards Interactive Integration Activities and Resources

On July 1, 2021, the Montana Administrative Rule will include five new or revised content area standards: [Social Studies](#), [Library Media](#), [Tech Integration](#), [Computer Science](#), and [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#).

As districts begin to plan professional learning opportunities for the five new/revised sets of standards the Office of Public Instruction is here to support! We encourage you to check out the [Professional Learning for New Standards website](#) for Professional Learning resources, presentations, and activities that can be used in your own professional development and/or school/district wide planning for implementation of the new/revised standards.





## AIM End of Year Enrollment Process: 5/3/2021-6/18/2021

The End of Year Enrollment Process is the process of creating 2021-22 calendars and rolling students forward into the next calendar year. It also entails ending all 2020-21 enrollments, including MT Youth Challenge, Job Corps and MTDA students. Please see our [AIM End of Year Enrollment Process User Guide](#) and our [recorded webinar](#).

## Federal Programs

The Federal Communications Commission recently announced that schools and libraries can begin to file applications on June 29 for the newly established \$7.17 billion Emergency Connectivity Fund. Schools and libraries can apply for financial support to purchase laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and broadband connections for off-campus use by students, school staff, and library patrons. During this 45-day application filing window, which will run from June 29 to August 13, eligible schools and libraries can submit requests for funding to purchase eligible equipment and services for the 2021-22 school year. Learn more about the program at <https://www.emergencyconnectivityfund.org/>.

## 2020-2021 Private School Participation in Title I Program Report

The final program report for districts that had private/non-public students who participated in Title I, Part A is due to the OPI no later than June 28, 2021. Use the following link to get to the OPI private school web app: <https://apps.opi.mt.gov/nonpublicschool/frmLogin.aspx>. After logging in, hover over Data Entry, and go down to Spring Title I Participation Counts (District). Enter the number of students by grade who received Title I services for SY20-21. Only submit one report per school system.

For more information, contact Sheri Harlow at [sharlow@mt.gov](mailto:sharlow@mt.gov), or 406-444-5660.

## 2021-2022 Preliminary Title Allocations

Preliminary allocations for Titles I, II, III, and IV have been posted to the OPI website at: <http://opi.mt.gov/Leadership/Academic-Success/Title-Other-Federal-Programs/Federal-Allocation-Bulletin>. Final allocations may be different from preliminary so please use the amounts for planning purposes only.

For more information, contact Sheri Harlow, at [sharlow@mt.gov](mailto:sharlow@mt.gov), or 406-444-5660

## Enrichment Planning Sessions and Webinar

The OPI has been discussing enrichment activities with School Districts and Tribal Leaders during the Tribal Relations ARP-ESSER Enrichment Planning sessions this month. Through these listening sessions, social emotional learning and wellness support has been brought to the forefront. As a result, we are developing guidelines for Enrichment that may be used to provide youth, family and community members with inclusive cultural teachings and community knowledge and resources. It has been refreshing to connect with our stakeholders, share ideas, support each other and laugh together as we design a template of enrichment support. This will lead to a Tribal Relations webinar series targeted for the end of June or early July.

## Meaningful Consultation

Throughout the past month, the OPI has maintained meaningful consultation with our Sovereign Tribal Nations as required under ESSA. Recent consultations have centered around the American Rescue Plan funding and how we can work together for the benefit of our youth and children. Each Nation is unique in their efforts and needs, but the emphasis on youth support has been consistent. Turning a difficult year into positive projects and support for each other is the true definition of resiliency.

## Online Tribal Resource Guide

Stephanie Iron Shooter, OPI's American Indian School Wellness Coordinator, and her Systems of Care team have worked in our Tribal Communities for almost a decade. They provide tiered support for youth, help organize collaborative relationships with the communities and build local capacity through training and mentorship efforts. Throughout the years, resources have been gathered. Over the last six months, we worked with Carmen Pennington and her staff at OPI to create a searchable online resource guide that is now live on our [TRR website](#). Tazha Grantham spearheaded this effort and we would like to recognize all of her hard work. The resource guide is a critical piece in collaboration efforts with our school districts and Tribes. We envision districts using the resource guide to identify and build relationships in wellness and cultural support as they collaborate in positive youth initiatives.

For more information, contact Donnie Wetzel, at [dwetzel2@mt.gov](mailto:dwetzel2@mt.gov), or 406-444-4527





# Transformational Learning and Montana Advanced Opportunities Grants

## TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING GRANT

Intended to provide financial incentive for school districts to implement transformational learning, House Bill 89 replaced HB 351, where a lottery system will determine the order of funding for newly applying districts. Transformational Learning is defined as a flexible system of pupil-centered learning that is designed to meet the Montana Constitutional mandate of "fully develop[ing] the educational potential of each person."

## MONTANA ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES GRANT

Advanced Opportunity means any course, exam, experiential, on-line, or other learning opportunity that is incorporated in a district's advanced opportunity plan and is designed to advance each qualifying pupil's opportunity for post-secondary career and educational success. Permanent funding is directed towards supporting college and career readiness through supplementing parent out-of-pocket expenses and personalization of CTE courses. Allocated funds are first-come, first-served.

### Application Process

- Complete application found on [OPI website](#)
- Obtain school board chair person's signature
- Include district's strategic plan as it refers to Transformational Learning and/or MT Advanced Opportunities
- For Transformational Learning, include district's definition of proficiency, without requiring seat time as a measure of proficiency



### What's Next?

After applications are submitted, the Board of Public Education qualifies districts. There is currently a wait list for Transformational Learning funding, with a projected funding date of FY23; however, MT Advanced Opportunity allocations have unclaimed funds, thus, no current wait list. Upon receiving funding, districts are required to submit an annual report for requalification.

*Application Window Opens 1st Week in December*

**Additional Information Found on OPI Website**

*Informational Webinars Throughout the Summer and Fall*

**Focus on Proficiency over Content**

*Addresses Students' Strengths, Interests, and Needs*

**Application Window Closes 2nd Week in January**

#### For More Information:

Krystal Smith  
[Krystal.smith@mt.gov](mailto:Krystal.smith@mt.gov)  
(406)249-0758

#### Transformational Learning Ideas:

- digital curriculum
- personalized pacing
- 1-to-1 professional development coaching
- project-based learning
- performance-based assessment

#### MT Advanced Opportunity Ideas:

- dual enrollment
- work-based opportunities
- certifications and credentialing
- personalization of CTE programs
- graduation and career track pathways



# Announcements

## TE06 Year-End Reports Are Due Before July 10, 2021

TE06 Year-End Reports are due before July 10 for traffic education courses that ended between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 (with some exceptions for programs still catching up due to the COVID-19 pandemic and are completing their courses in early July).

Please use the Traffic Education Data & Reporting System (TEDRS) to enter and submit your TE06 Year-End Report. The login link for TEDRS can be found at <http://opi.mt.gov/DriverEd>. Make sure all student lists for the year are completed and submitted as well and the Reimbursement Request is confirmed when the student list is completed.

Reimbursements for eligible students will be paid in August. The estimated payment is \$100 per student, but this number is dependent on the total number of students being reimbursed statewide and the percentage of driver license fees received by the OPI for disbursement to school districts. We won't know the exact amount until late July and will send out an email to school district staff with the final payment information when the reimbursements have been processed. To download reports on the past two years of reimbursements to school districts and other relevant traffic education data, visit <http://opi.mt.gov/Forms-Reports>.

For assistance, contact the Traffic Education Office at (406) 444-4432 or email [pborneman@mt.gov](mailto:pborneman@mt.gov).

## OPI Now Has Both Program Managers Working Full Time At OPI

The ESSER Program Manager is Jeff Kirksey and the EANS Program Manger is Janey Salomon!

The OPI will host weekly Q & A Sessions during the month of June to address questions related to ARP ESSER district plans and budgets. The session days will be June 8 th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th from 9:30-10:30am. To the extent possible, please submit questions to [jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov](mailto:jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov) by the close of business each Friday. Submitted questions will be addressed during the session each Tuesday 9:30am. The weekly Q&A sessions will be held through Zoom; the link and dial-in number will be the same every week.

ARP Q &A Session Link: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/85097037609?pwd=bjM5MjNNESSs3WG9OK3dIUUhYRjNXdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 9703 7609

Password: 027973

Dial by Telephone +1 646 558 8656 or +1 406 444 9999

Meeting ID: 850 9703 7609

Password: 027973

Find your local number: <https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/85097037609>

## K-12 Data Task Force Membership

As mentioned in last month's summary, the OPI is seeking your help in finding people interested in serving on the [K-12 Data Task Force](#) to help guide and advise the OPI's [data systems modernization project](#). **The deadline to apply is now July 11th.**

[Click here to apply to become a member of the task force](#)

Members will be appointed by legislative leadership of the task force, currently:

[Representative David Bedey](#)

[Senator Daniel Salomon](#)

[Senator Russ Tempel](#)

[Senator Edie McClafferty](#)

[Representative Seth Berglee](#)

[Representative Fred Anderson](#)

[Representative Moffie Funk](#)

Questions or need more information? Contact Michael Sweeney, Chief Data Officer via [msweeney@mt.gov](mailto:msweeney@mt.gov) or 444-4411

## Montana DRIVE Workshops are still available! Register today!

The advanced driving workshops operated by the Office of Public Instruction at our facility in Lewistown got underway on June 7, but we still have a few openings. This one-day workshop, offered only in the summer, gives adult and teen drivers the opportunity to practice risky driving maneuvers on a closed track with professional driving instructors. The workshops run from June 7 to August 12 and are limited to 12 drivers per day. Pre-registration is required.

One week in July is set aside for teen drivers only and there are currently six openings on Thursday, July 22. Teens should have at least 9-12 months of driving experience and have a driver license.

Visit <http://montanadrive.mt.gov> to view the workshop calendar and register online. For more information, call (406) 444-4432 or email [montanadrive@mt.gov](mailto:montanadrive@mt.gov).

## American Rescue Plan-Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER)

On June 7, 2021, the Montana OPI submitted to the U.S. Department of Education (USED) its State Plan for the ARP ESSER Fund. This plan recognizes local control, removes obstacles and barriers for schools, and enhances accountability without being overly burdensome. Click [HERE](#) to see the *Montana OPI ARP-ESSER State Plan*.

The ARP Act represents the third round of funding to come through the ESSER fund, and Montana's allocation totals more than \$382,000,000. In previous rounds, Montana received more than \$41,000,000 (ESSER I) and \$170,000,000 (ESSER II). Through the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS), the state also received nearly \$20 million for home and private schools. Two-thirds of the ESSER III funding has already been released to schools; once USED approves the State Plan, the OPI will be able to release the remaining one-third, or roughly \$126 million.

Please check the "[Find ESSER Information](#)" tab on the OPI website for regularly updated information including:

- Guidance
- FAQs
- Allocations
- Recorded Q & A Sessions and Presentation Slides
- **Coming Soon:** The OPI will be releasing information about the uniform template for the LEA ARP ESSER Plan. The template will open on July 1, 2021 in TEAMS.

### ARP-ESSER Key Dates and OPI Technical Assistance Timeline

(click [HERE](#) to view full timeline with additional details)

May 24, 2021. MT OPI allocated the school district share of the ARP ESSER funds received on March 24, 2021 through the e-grants system

- **June 21, 2021.** OPI deadline to make school data information available on its website
- **June 24, 2021.** Districts must make publicly available **Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plans**
- **June 24-25, 2021.** Virtual **Montana Education Summit (MTEdx-21)**. Registration is required and open at this link: <https://hopin.com/events/mtedx-21>
- **July 1, 2021.** The **District ARP ESSER Plan** template will open through the TEAMS (due by August 24th)
- **July 2021.** The OPI will host three **ARP ESSER Webinars** on District ARP ESSER Plans (see [Timeline](#) for details)
- **August 24, 2021.** Districts must **submit an ARP ESSER Plan** to the OPI through TEAMS
- **September 1, 2021.** Due date to complete and **submit ESSER II and ESSER III applications** in the E-grants system

For more information, contact Jeff Kirksey, the ESSER Program Manager, at [jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov](mailto:jeffrey.kirksey@mt.gov)



# June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 <a href="#">Montana DRIVE Workshops Begin</a>	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 <a href="#">ARP ESSER Data available on OPI Website</a>	22 <a href="#">ARP ESSER Q&amp;A Session</a>	23	24 <a href="#">Return to in Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Public</a> <a href="#">MTEdx-21 &amp; Job Fair DAY 1</a>	25 <a href="#">Registration for Regional Summit Due</a> <a href="#">MTEdx-21 &amp; Job Fair DAY 2</a>	26
27	28 <a href="#">Novice Special Education Training Class 1 Begins</a> <a href="#">Spring Title I Participation PtA Due</a>	29 <a href="#">ARP ESSER Q&amp;A Session</a> <a href="#">Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Opens</a>	30 <a href="#">Proposals for IEFA Grant Due to Zach</a>			

# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <a href="#">New MT Administrative Rule</a>  <a href="#">Uniform Template for LEA ARP ESSER Opens</a>	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 <a href="#">ARP ESSER Webinar</a>	14	15 EANS Application Extension	16	17
18	19	20 <a href="#">ARP ESSER Webinar</a>	21	22 <a href="#">MT DRIVE Teen Workshop Openings</a>	23	24
25	26	27 <a href="#">ARP ESSER Webinar</a>	28	29	30	31 <a href="#">IEFA Grant Application Due</a>

# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 <a href="#">Regional Summit Day 1</a>	4 <a href="#">Regional Summit Day 2</a>	5 <a href="#">Regional Summit Day 3</a>	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 <a href="#">Montana DRIVE Workshops End</a>	13 <a href="#">Emergency Connectivity Fund Application Closes</a>	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 <a href="#">Novice Special Education Training Ends</a>	23	24 <a href="#">Districts Submit ARP ESSER Plan to OPI</a>	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <a href="#">ESSER II and ESSER III Applications Due</a>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		