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Office of the Superintendent

Updates in Montana Education

From all of us at the Office of Public Instruction, we hope that you are having a safe and relaxing summer! The OPI is ensuring a smooth transition into the new fiscal year and preparing for the upcoming school year. Due to IT maintenance and security updates, some online systems may be temporarily down. Thank you for your patience as we are always striving to provide the best possible public service.

School Safety

School safety conversations are ongoing at the OPI. The negotiated rulemaking [committee](#) for school emergency response plans membership is being finalized, collaborated meetings with stakeholders are ongoing, the OPI is in the process of completing a [STOP grant](#) application, and Superintendent Arntzen is continuing to serve on CCSSO's school safety steering [committee](#) with telephone and in-person meetings scheduled for July.

Montana Learn: Summer Reading and Math Resources

As part of Superintendent Arntzen's "Montana Learn" initiative to promote math and reading achievement, the OPI is encouraging students to stay engaged in learning during the summer break. The OPI's [website](#) has links to summer reading and math challenges that tailor book lists or math lessons to students' interests and ability.

Superintendent's June Events

- School safety meeting with the Montana Department of Justice
- Introductions to the new leader of the University of Montana Safe Schools Center
- Address to the 2018 Montana Boys State delegates
- Participation in Mansfield Center's [NEW Leadership Institute](#) to inspire young women
- Meeting with USDA Food & Nutrition Service Regional Director
- Monthly [Land Board Meeting](#)
- Meeting of the [State Library Commission](#)
- Presentation to international teachers from the Mansfield Center
- Address to the 2018 Montana Girls State delegates
- Presentation to the [Education Interim Committee](#)
- Meeting with the Governor's Office to discuss workforce development
- Visit to East Helena summer food service sites
- Participation in the Montana Behavioral Institute at MSU
- Participation in the Education Commission of the States conference and meetings with the Department of Education and Congressional leaders

Follow Superintendent Arntzen on social media:  

For more information, contact dylan.klapmeier@mt.gov or 406-444-3559

Every Student Succeeds Act/Federal Update

Report Card, Title IV-A, Title I

Report Card:

The OPI is continuing to work with our [GEMS](#) vendor ASPECT to produce Montana's school report card as required under ESSA. The report card will be made publicly available in December of 2018 and then each spring going forward. The report card will include federally mandated school performance indicators such as graduation rates and testing performance but will not assign punitive labels to schools. In August we will begin sharing design prototypes and asking for input from our partners in education and community.

Title IV, Part A:

School safety and climate are at the top of everyone's mind right now, so we are pleased that Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment grants have been increased. funding supports programming targeted in three categories:

- Safe and healthy student activities
- Well-rounded educational programs
- Technology integration into learning.

With this funding increase, all LEA's that received Title I support this year will receive funding for next school year with grant awards ranging from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of approximately \$160,000. Award sizes are based on a funding formula associated with student population. For districts receiving over \$30,000, the district will be required to complete a needs assessment to determine their programming priorities. The OPI is working to integrate the components of this needs assessment into the CSIP process to assist schools in integrating program support from the grants into existing school support efforts. With an increase in funding, the OPI has plans underway to hire a full-time coordinator for the grant program. This position will be leading the agency efforts to develop state level support and technical assistance for the program. As with past years, districts will still have the option to roll their Title IV, Part A funds into Title I or Title II if they choose not to run a Title IV, Part A program.

Title I:

Montana districts will be receiving \$44,300,161 for the 2018-2019 school year in federal Title I allocations. This is an increase from last year's allocation of \$43,626,298. funding to individual districts is always relative to the other districts. Enrollment and poverty rates along with other factors always determines the amount a district gets. Even though we have an increase in funding, some districts will gain funds and others will lose them. Districts will be notified when their allocations are available.

Please send questions to ESSAinput@mt.gov

Accreditation Division

Seeking Expert Panelist to Participate in Spanish Test Review

The Accreditation and Educator Preparation Division is seeking K-12 Spanish Language teachers to participate as panelists, or observe the Live Test Review the LIVE Praxis Test review for Spanish: World language (5195) August 7, 2018 at the University of Montana. The OPI will provide a block of rooms for panelists requiring lodging (reservations must be made with participant credit cards). Lodging, mileage, and per diem expenses will be reimbursed at state rate.

The purpose of a LIVE test review is for expert content area panelists take the live test, examine the national and state data, and make decisions as to whether a qualifying Spanish score is set appropriately for Montana teacher education candidates. The LIVE Praxis Subject Assessment will be analyzed and discussed onsite by expert panelists.

To suggest participants, contact Gigi Bottenfield by email at Gigi.bottenfield@mt.gov, or by telephone at 406-444-1852.

Educational Opportunity and Equity Division

2018-19 Private/Nonpublic Consultation Affirmation and Agreement Forms

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), public schools which have private/nonpublic schools inside their district boundaries that are participating in federal programs must hold consultation meetings with those entities to go over the rules for each federal program. Under the ESSA, districts are required to submit the results of the consultation (proof of the meetings and equitable share service agreements-if needed) to the OPI for review. Districts are strongly encouraged to complete the required consultation by June 30, of each year. Final agreements must be submitted to Jack O'Connor, Private School Ombudsman, no later than July 31, of each year for review. In special circumstances where the agreements may not be in place by July 31, districts are required to submit a request to the Private School Ombudsman for an extension.

For more information, contact Jack O'Connor at joconnor2@mt.gov or 406-444-3083.

2018 Summer E-Grants Training

The Montana Office of Public Instruction will be traveling around the state to host E-grants training. There are various dates and locations that you can choose to attend. This will be an opportunity for staff members who work in the E-grants system to gain more knowledge and insight into the program and to go over some of the new changes that have occurred to the E-grants system. Bring your E-grants login information, enrollment and free/reduced lunch count by school, community eligibility data, homeless student data, private school enrollment, and low-income numbers (if necessary) so that you will be able to fill out your ESEA Consolidated Application and Title programs for which your district receives federal funding.

The Summer E-grants Tour Schedule is as follows:

Each training session will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

July 9 and August 9—Helena High School Computer Lab

1300 Billings Avenue, Helena, Montana

Programs: Title I, II, III (July 9), Carl Perkins

July 10—Belgrade Middle School Computer Lab

410 Triple Crown Road, Belgrade, Montana

Programs: Title I, II, Carl Perkins

July 17—Dawson High School Computer Lab

900 N. Merrill Avenue, Glendive, Montana

Programs: Title I, II, Carl Perkins

July 24—Glacier High School Computer Lab

375 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, Montana

Programs: Title I, II, Carl Perkins

July 25—Big Sky High School Computer Lab

3100 South Avenue West, Missoula, Montana

Programs: Title I, II, Carl Perkins

No registration is necessary.

For more information, contact Jack O'Connor at joconnor2@mt.gov or 406-444-3083.

School Finance Division

Interactive School Finance Webinar

Interactive Webinar Event The OPI School Finance Division will be hosting a monthly interactive webinar event. What does “interactive webinar event” mean? The meeting will be hosted using a Go To Meeting login for your computer and phone line. All you will need is a phone line, a computer internet connection, and to register for the event. You will call into the phone if you would like to ask questions, or you can simply listen using the computer audio only. We will have different topics and have a set agenda for each discussion. The topic of each webinar will be changing, so please keep your eye on the schedule posted on the School Finance Division website and in the e-mails sent out with the webinar event topic. Don't worry, if the event is full and demand is high, we will host another webinar with the same topic later in that month. So mark your calendars, the last Thursday of the month from 10 am to noon we will be hosting a webinar.

July 26, 2018 TFS/Budget Question and Answer Session. To register for this event, e-mail Debbie Casey at dcasey@mt.gov by May 29th. Debbie will send you the information to attend the meeting when you register.

Special Education Division

MT's Crisis Action School Toolkit on Suicide (CAST-S)

SAVE THE DATE: Dr. Scott Poland, author of the MT CAST-S will be providing training and technical assistance on the toolkit two different times through Webinars. The first will be offered on 8/31/18 from 12 noon – 1 pm and the second will be offered on 9/18/18 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Holly Mook: hmook@mt.gov 406-444-0773

Experienced Teacher Forum

The Special Education Division of OPI will be offering Experienced Teacher Forums for special education staff and administrators. Topics will include: Prior Written Notice, Data Collection, Homelessness, Assessment, Child Find, Resources, and Trauma Informed. The Forums will be at the following locations:

September 11, 2018 – Glasgow, MT at the Cottonwood Inn 8:30 – 4:00

September 17, 2018 – Kalispell, MT at the Red Lion Hotel 8:30 – 4:00

September 19, 2018 – Bozeman, MT at the Hilton Garden Inn 8:30 – 4:00

For more information, contact Danni McCarthy: dmccarthy@mt.gov 406-444-0452