



# Montana Teacher Residency Program 2024-2025 Academic Year

## District Frequently Asked Questions

**Q - When a school district has two Teacher Leaders assigned to a single Resident, will they both be paid the \$6,000 Teacher Leader stipend through the funds for this program?**

A: No. There is only one Teacher Leader stipend per Resident. The district, in consultation with their identified Teacher Leaders may strive to have an alternate plan. That plan would need the UM Western and the OPI's approval.

**Q - How are housing costs being paid?**

A: To participate in the Teacher Residency, districts must commit to providing housing assistance for the Residents, however the amount and type of assistance varies. For example, some Residents already have housing and receive utility support, while other districts pay for fuel for Residents that have housing but must travel. Others may provide housing that the district already owns. The goal is to have our Residents incur little to no housing costs during the year.

1. This is what makes rural opportunities viable.
2. The goal is that the Resident is in a full-time pre-service opportunity with the focus on learning, applying, reflecting, adapting, and adjusting so each Resident is prepared on day one as a full-time licensed teacher to enter the classroom with the skills, knowledge, and aptitude to be effective on day one.

**Q - Who pays the Teacher Leader costs for attending the in-person Teacher Leader Academies (i.e., travel, lodging, per diem)?**

A: Lodging and meals during the academy are paid for by OPI. Mileage not included.

**Q - Is the Resident co-teaching with another teacher or filling an open teaching position?**

A: No. The Resident will be partnered with a Teacher Leader and essentially will be fulfilling a year-long student teaching model. A Resident cannot be a Teacher of Record in a classroom.

**Q - As a district, can we specify what areas we would like a Resident in (i.e., English, Art, Elementary, Guidance)?**

A: Yes. When you complete the District Participation Form showing your interest and commitment to the program, you can select what subjects your district is interested in hosting a Resident.

**Q – Does the Resident need to teach in Montana after the Residency Year?**

A: Yes, Residents are expected to teach in a Montana public school district for 3 years within 5 following the completion of the student teaching of the Residency.

**Q - What calendar will the Resident follow, the college calendar, or the school district calendar at the location of their Residency?**

A: The Resident will follow the school district calendar and will report the first PIR day. They will continue teaching up to the last day of school regardless of the college calendar.

**Q – When will the Resident begin orientation?**

A: The Resident orientation will be in-person in a centralized location sometime in beginning to mid-August. Please watch for emails about the dates, which will also be posted to the OPI website.

**Q - Can a Resident substitute?**

A: A Resident can substitute only in their Teacher Leader's class for up to 5 days a semester. The Resident does *not* receive payment for substituting

**Q - Can an administrator serve as a Teacher Leader?**

A: Yes, an administrator could serve as the Teacher Leader in districts with an administrator that is also in a teaching role.

**Q - Can a Resident keep a job while in the Residency?**

A: Residency needs to be the primary focus. Working outside of the Residency is not recommended.

**Q – Is a Resident provided with release time to complete course work?**

A: The Residency is built on an 80/20 time model wherein the student will be released for 20 percent of the scheduled student teaching to work on classwork.

**Q – Can a school participate more than once in the Teacher Residency Program?**

A: Yes. The Resident Program is based on need and placement with the priority to rural Montana and significantly impacted districts.

**Q – How are districts investing in the program?**

A: Districts are showing their commitment to the Teacher Residency Program by:

1. Providing the housing costs for Residents.
2. Ensuring the building principal, superintendent and board are fully invested and supportive of the project.
3. Ensuring that the Teacher Leader is an excellent teacher and monitoring the match between Teacher Leader and Resident.

4. Building support in the community for the new Resident and the project.
5. Participating in evaluations of the project.
6. Advocating and providing public comments for the OPI and Montana University System as they present to legislators, the Board of Public Education, the Board of Regents, and other interested groups.
7. Volunteering to give testimony on the project.
8. Offering suggestions for the next Residency group of what will make it more effective.
9. Helping build this opportunity in collaboration with all the partners.

**Q – Are principals and superintendents expected to participate in the Executive Leadership Academy?**

A: There is not a requirement for principals and superintendents to participate in the Executive Leadership Academy Cohort II, but it is strongly encouraged so the opportunity for school improvement and learning is parallel to what Teacher Leaders are learning and coaching their Resident.

**Q – How do you know districts are committed to the Teacher Residency?**

A: Interested districts must complete a District Participation Form informing the Teacher Residency Coordinator of the agreements the district will adhere to while hosting a yearlong Resident. District leaders will also sign an agreement letter with outlined expectations.

**Q - Is there signed paperwork that will need to be completed by the different parties? If so, when should we expect to see that paperwork?**

A: Yes, there are contracts that will need signatures. Districts, Teacher Leaders, Residents, and universities will be provided this paperwork no later than August.

**Q – Who are the partners in the Montana Teacher Residency Program?**

A: The partners include our national think tank that has been working on this effort since October 2021; the Educator Prep Programs in Montana, the local school districts, The Comprehensive Center 17, The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, The Office of Public Instruction, and the University of Montana Western.

**Q – How are/will the partners be informed of progress?**

A: The partners will be informed of the progress of the program through in at least one or more of the following venues:

- Monthly Webinars
- Presentations
- Phone calls
- Emails

- Regular meetings with those affected
- The OPI Compass
- Field visits

**Q – How often will evaluation data collection occur?**

A: At least quarterly and through phone calls, webinars, surveys, emails, and visitations. The Comprehensive Center 17 will lead the evaluation process.



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