



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 university's and the OPI's approval.

Q – How are housing costs being paid?

A: To participate in the Residency Program, districts had to commit to providing housing for the Residents. This is a local district decision, and it varies from district to district. For example, some Residents already have housing and receive housing support, others are paying for fuel for Residents that have housing but requires travel to the school, one district had arranged an AirBnB, while others provide housing that the district already own. The long and short, Residents cannot incur any 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 is not included.

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

A: The Resident will be partnered with a Teacher Leader and essentially will be fulfilling a yearlong student teaching model.



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 Google form showing your interest and commitment to the program, you can select what areas your district is interested in.

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

A: Yes, Residents are expected to teach in Montana. Preferably a rural or significantly impacted school in Montana for 3 years following 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 participate in the district's PIR day(s), regardless of the college calendar. They will continue teaching up to the last day of school past the college semester calendar.

Q – When will the Resident begin orientation?

A: The Resident orientation will be in-person in a centralized location sometime in 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: The Residency needs to be the primary focus. Working outside of the Residency is strongly discouraged.

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

A: The Resident needs to be provided with at least 20% of scheduled time per week to complete coursework.



Q – Can a school participate more than once in the 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 Residency program by:

1. Providing the housing costs for Residents.
2. Providing per diem and travel reimbursements for in person learning opportunities.
3. Ensuring the building principal, superintendent and board are fully invested and supportive of the project.
4. Ensuring that the Teacher Leader is an excellent teacher and monitoring the match between Teacher Leader and Resident.
5. Building support in the community for the new Resident and the project.
6. Participating in evaluations of the project.
7. Advocating and providing public comments for the OPI and University system as they present to legislators, the Board of Public Education, the Board of Regents, and other interested groups.
8. Volunteer to give testimony on the project.
9. Offer suggestions for the next Residency group of what will make it more effective.
10. Help build this opportunity in collaboration with all the partners as this is new to Montana.

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 Residency Program?

A: Interested districts complete a Google Form that informs them of what the district must commit to in order to host a yearlong Resident. District leaders will also sign an agreement letter with 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 MOUs that will need signatures. Districts, Residents, and universities will be provided with this paperwork no later than August.

Q – Who are the partners in the 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, and The Office of Public Instruction.

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

A: The partners will be informed of the progress of the program through multiple 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.